Wednesday, July 1, 2026 No 181 ₹7

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DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

US, India trade deal in final steps, says Ambassador Gor

Page 13

Hardik shifts to Bengaluru

All-rounder makes CoE permanent training base

Page 16

सत्यमेव जयते
Government of India

Digital India
Power To Empower

11 Years of Digital India

Life Made Easier Across Villages and Cities

₹51+ lakh crore transferred directly to bank accounts of beneficiaries through DBT

42+ lakh route km of optical fibre network across the country; nearly 2.2 lakh villages connected

Every second digital transaction in the world takes place in India

70+ crore DigiLocker users

Real-time nutrition monitoring of 8.9+ crore mothers and children through Poshan Tracker

Over 2500 government services are now available on mobile phones

Affordable data and rapid expansion of 5G connectivity

Startup India and Atal Innovation Mission driving deep-tech growth

12 semiconductor plants taking shape

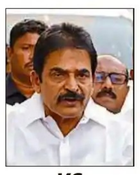
“ Digital India means Government at your doorstep, on your mobile phone. Digital India means curbing corruption. Digital India means ensuring that even the poorest receive their rightful benefits. ”

– Prime Minister Narendra Modi

CBC 06124/13/0002/2627

Cong moves privilege notice against Rajnath over Op Sindoor

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Senior Congress MP K C Venugopal on Tuesday submitted a breach of privilege notice against Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, accusing him of misleading Parliament on casualties during Operation Sindoor.



KC Venugopal

Venugopal, who is also the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) chairman, shot off a letter to Speaker Om Birla, claiming that Singh told the Lok Sabha on July 28 last year that no soldier was killed in Operation Sindoor. However, he said a recent statement showed the names of six personnel who died in the operation.

The position "clearly indicates that the Minister of Defence, while stating on the floor of the House that there had been no casualties during Operation Sindoor, was clearly misleading or incorrect", he said.

"It is well established that misleading the House or withholding information from the House by a Minister on the floor of the House constitutes a breach of privilege and contempt of the House," Venugopal said, seeking initiation of breach of privilege proceedings against Singh.

Sharing the letter on X, he said it was a "grave insult" to the families of these six martyrs and the entire armed forces that the people of India were not told of their bravery and ultimate sacrifice. "They died in service of our nation, while defending it against our enemies, and the so-called nationalist Government simply lied about their martyrdom," he added.

Mental health task force covers 30 institutes in a year

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court-appointed task force on mental health said on Tuesday it has visited 30 institutes in 10 states since May 2025.

"The Task Force also conducted 25 stakeholder consultations, to ensure an interdisciplinary and equity-oriented approach," a release by the Ministry of Education said.

Some of the consultations carried out by the task force were on the topics of students and faculty with disabilities, caste discrimination in higher education, gender, mental health and suicides. Consultations were held with students from ST and OBC communities, NGOs and law students.

The task force — which was formed in March 2025 to address the rising incidents of student suicides and examine mental health concerns among students in higher education institutions — had asked the SC for an extension till October 31 for submitting its report.

Ethanol blending an experiment, results by next year: Govt to SC

Supreme Court orders status quo on Karnataka HC ruling on enhanced allocation

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered status quo on ethanol supply allocations for the Ethanol Supply Year (ESY) 2025–26, in a significant development that could impact the Centre's ambitious 20% ethanol blending programme with petrol.

A bench of Justices M M Sundresh and Sheel Nagu passed the interim order while hearing a challenge by the Centre and oil marketing companies against a recent Karnataka High Court direction.

Attorney General R Venkataramani submitted that the 20% ethanol blending programme in petrol is still an ongoing experiment and the impact of the policy would become clearer by next year.

The high court had asked various Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to consider and decide a representation by a dedicated ethanol manufacturer seeking an increase in its supply quota for the current supply year.

Appearing for Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd, Venkataramani strongly contended that the High Court order had the potential to destabilise the national ethanol blending policy.

He argued that preferential allocations could not be claimed as a matter of right and that any deviation would amount to modification of government policy through judicial intervention.

THE CASE

- SC stays Karnataka HC order directing enhancement of ethanol allocation for 2025-26
- Oil marketing companies say the HC order has potential to destabilise the national blending policy
- After hearing the matter, the SC directs status quo until next hearing

When the bench questioned why the matter was not taken to the division bench of the High Court, the AG submitted that ethanol supply contracts had already been finalised in October 2025 and similar petitions were pending before different High Courts. He sought time to file transfer petitions.

He said the ethanol allocation exercise attained finality on October 17, 2025, and allocations were communicated to 378 suppliers for a total supply of 1,050 crore litres of ethanol, of which 680 crore litres had already been supplied by them by June 18. If one supplier's quota was enhanced, other similarly placed would claim parity which would open litigation floodgates, he said.

In its plea before the top court, Bharat Petroleum said the private supplier VINP Distilleries cannot claim an absolute right to supply ethanol based on its designed production capacity, to the detriment of other suppliers, as allocations have been made to vendors.

After hearing the arguments, the court issued notice and directed maintenance of status quo on the allocations.

The case related to M/S Vinp Distilleries and Sugar Private Limited, which had set up a dedicated ethanol plant with an annual production capacity of around 9.90 crore litres.

The company bid to supply 9.26 crore litres but was allocated only 3.92 crore litres for ESY 2025–26.

The HC, while allowing the company's plea, had observed that dedicated ethanol plants — which supply exclusively to OMCs and are contractually barred from selling to others or manufacturing other products — could not be "relegated to the short end of the stick."

It held that the petitioner had a legitimate expectation based on the agreement and past conduct of the OMCs, and directed compliance with the relevant clause of the contract.

VB-G RAM G Act rolls out today; Centre says all steps in place

Rural job guarantee raised to 125 days under new law

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025, will come into effect from July 1, with the Centre announcing that all administrative and financial arrangements are in place for its nationwide implementation.

The VB-G RAM G Act, which replaces the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), raises the statutory guarantee of wage employment for eligible rural households from 100 days to 125 days, marking a significant expansion of the rural employment framework.

The Ministry of Rural Development has released an interim fund of Rs 95,692.31 crore to states and Union Territories to ensure smooth transition, timely payment of wages, and uninterrupted execution of works.

Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan emphasised the government's commitment to providing work without delay. "Our priority is to ensure that no eligible rural worker remains without work even for a single day," he said.

Existing e-KYC-verified job cards will continue to remain valid until the new Gramin Rozgar Guarantee Cards are issued. Gram panchayats will retain a central role in the scheme's implementation, with emphasis on natural resource management, water conservation, agriculture and allied activities, rural infrastructure, and women's empowerment.

The new law replaces the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). PTI FILE

According to the ministry, 29 states and Union Territories have made budgetary provisions for the Act, while 24 have notified their respective state-level VB-GRAM G schemes.

The national launch of the Act will be held on July 2 at Mukkavaripalli village in Obulavaripalle mandal of Andhra Pradesh's Tirupati district. The event will witness the distribution of new Gramin Rozgar Guarantee Cards and the release of awareness material.

THE TRANSITION

- Rs 95,692 crore interim fund released for smooth transition
- Job cards remain valid; new guarantee cards to follow
- 'Work without delay': Agriculture minister stresses timely jobs
- Opposition raises concerns over impact on demand-driven nature of the scheme

Oppn raises concerns

The rollout has drawn criticism from Opposition parties and rural employment activists, who have raised concerns over the potential impact on the demand-driven nature of the scheme, the autonomy of states and panchayats, and the adequacy of financial resources for full implementation. The government, however, maintains that the enhanced guarantee and comprehensive framework will strengthen rural livelihood security and lead to better asset creation.

According to official data presented at the Rashtriya Gramin Vikas Sammelan, which concluded in New Delhi on Monday, 14 of 34 states and Union Territories are yet to formally notify the Act, five have not identified peak agricultural seasons as legally required, and several large states are yet to open mandatory Reserve Bank of India (RBI) accounts.

Jolt to Sena (UBT) as Aaditya aide joins Shinde camp

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

In yet another setback to Uddhav Thackeray, his son Aaditya's close aid and Shiv Sena (UBT) MLC Sachin Ahir crossed over to the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena faction on Tuesday and is set to become the deputy chairperson of the Maharashtra Legislative Council.

According to political buzz, more MLAs and MLCs from the Thackeray camp are expected to switch to the ruling BJP-led Maha Yuti alliance.

Ahir's defection comes a week after six Shiv Sena (UBT) MPs joined the Shinde-led faction.

Mocking the Thackerays, leaders of the ruling Maha Yuti said the Sena (UBT) would soon be left with Aaditya as its lone legislator.

Accompanied by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Deputy Chief Ministers Eknath Shinde and Sunetra Pawar, Ahir filed the nomination papers for the Legislative Council post in the Vidhan Bhavan complex.

The Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi has nominated Jagannath Abhyankar, a Shiv Sena (UBT) MLC and educationalist.

Given the numbers, Ahir's victory is a foregone conclusion.

Sena (UBT)'s Mumbai South MP and chief spokesperson Arvind Sawant demanded Ahir's immediate disqualification for his act of defection.

"We do fool-proof operations. All legal aspects have been taken care of," Shinde said, but did not go into details on questions about the anti-defection law.

Sachin Ahir and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde in Mumbai on Tuesday. PTI

Ahir, a trade unionist who worked for mill workers' rights, is the nephew of former MLA and underworld don-turned-social activist Arun Gawli.

"Four years ago, we walked out of the MVA. Exactly four years ago on June 30, I became chief minister... and today, on the same day, Ahir joined us," Shinde said.

'Operation Fadnavis'

A rattled Aaditya said what was happening was not 'Operation Tiger' but 'Operation Devendra Fadnavis', a move to sideline the CM and keep him out of the race for the prime minister's post in the 2029 elections.

"We have seen what happened with Nitin Gadkari and Shivraj Singh Chouhan," he said.

Reacting to the defection, Aaditya added, "One must have some principles in life. If the party gives you everything, you must also stand with the party in tough times. Bring him to me and I will ask what it is that the party didn't give him."

Heat, hunger fail to dent CJP protest

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The sweltering summer and Delhi's humidity have not dampened their spirit as around 20 students joined activist Sonam Wangchuk in a hunger strike at the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) protest demanding Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation.

AISA members on Day 3 of the hunger strike at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Tuesday.

Most were regulars at the sit-in that began on June 20 at Jantar Mantar and converted their protest into a hunger strike on Sunday, along with Wangchuk.

None had prior experience of a hunger strike, let alone an indefinite one.

On the third day, they survive on water, read books and interact with visitors expressing solidarity, though fatigue has begun to set in. Friends stand guard while doctor-friends check them at regular intervals.

The students on hunger strike are angry with the government over its failure to fix accountability, the suicides of students — which they insist are not limited to the NEET issue — the centralisation of the education sector, rising fees and the functioning of the National Testing Agency (NTA).

Six of them are activists from the CPI(ML)L students' wing, the All India Students' Association (AISA), including its president Neha, a research scholar in Performance Arts at Jawaharlal Nehru University; JNUSU Joint Secretary Danish; and AISA's Uttar Pradesh state president Manish.

'Leak minister'

"We had to go in for a hunger strike as the government refused to sack the 'Leak Minister'. It is not just about NEET alone. The NTA is full of outsourced people, and there is no accountability. The centralisation of the education sector is not helping anyone," Manish told *DH*.

Manish referred to the recent spate of student suicides following the NEET fiasco, stressing that the problem is not confined to this period. He said there is a need to decentralise the education sector, as the underprivileged, including girl students, are the most affected by higher fees.

Deepak, an AISA activist at the Delhi University who recently appeared for the CUET for postgraduate courses, said the fee hike was huge. He described the new National Education Policy as discriminatory and wondered why students should have to study about 'Swachh Bharat' in their degree classes.

In another tent, around 12 students were also on hunger strike. When *DH* visited, all were resting as the protest had begun to take a toll.

Brajesh Pandey, a youth from Ballia in Uttar Pradesh, said, "I am not on fast. Someone should be around them for help. I give them water and look after them."

Wangchuk's health dips on Day 3 of strike

NEW DELHI, PTI: The protest by the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) entered its 11th day on Tuesday, with activist Sonam Wangchuk's blood sugar level dropping on Day 3 of his hunger strike and CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke alleging restrictions on supporters reaching the protest site.

A health update shared by the organisers said Wangchuk's blood pressure was at 117/60 and blood sugar level at 66, below the normal range. "There is extreme heat here. Staying without food in such conditions is difficult," a doctor at the protest site said.

Reacting to BJP president Nitin Nabin's remarks referring to protesters as a "virus", Dipke said, "They call us virus... BJP should come, there is a vaccine, an anti-virus against a virus named Dharmendra Pradhan."

General Dhiraj Seth takes charge as the 31st Chief of the Army Staff, in New Delhi, on Tuesday. PTI

CIC asks CBSE to set timeline for sharing answer sheets, marks

NEW DELHI, PTI: Calling it the "dire need of today's scenario", the Central Information Commission (CIC) has recommended that the CBSE introduce a Standard Operating Procedure governing the timelines for providing the marks or answer sheets on the request of students.

The recommendation came while deciding an appeal by a Class 12 student who sought her assessment records used for preparing the 2021 board examination results after the examination was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The appellant alleged that errors in the assessment process caused her "mental agony and depression", for which she had to undergo therapy.

Information Commissioner Sudha Rani Relangi observed, "It is the dire need of today's scenario that CBSE should introduce a Standard Operating Procedure governing the timelines for submission/providing the marks or answer sheet on the request of students."

CBSE students display placards during a protest over the paper leak. PTI

The CIC further said, "This will be an effective step to avoid any unwarranted situations of this nature of hardship as faced by the Appellant in this matter, is likely to affect the young minds."

It accordingly "strongly recommends" under Section 25(5) of the RTI Act that the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) formulate the SOP and ensure that "such policy related information be disclosed on their official website".

Compliance report

A copy of the order has also been marked to the CBSE secretary for necessary action, while the First Appellate Authority has been directed to file a compliance report within four weeks.

On the appellant's grievance, the commission observed that "the denial of Appellant's own assessment marks in whatever format it may be by the CPIO (Central Public Information Officer) goes against the spirit of the RTI Act, 2005."

The CIC directed the CBSE's CPIO to provide the appellant, free of cost, a revised reply along with the permissible information, specifically her assessment marks sought in the RTI application.

DELHI SUMMIT

Modi, Takaichi to unveil AI cooperation plan

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Sanae Takaichi are expected to send a message to both the US and China this week with a joint declaration denouncing economic coercion, while also exploring cooperation on stockpiling Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) to deal with future supply disruptions.

Modi will host Takaichi for the 16th India-Japan annual summit in New Delhi. They are likely to adopt a plan to advance the Japan-India Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Initiative, focusing on jointly developing vertical AI solutions for sectors such as manufacturing, healthcare, and mobility, and expanding collaboration on large language models, AI governance, and joint research.

Takaichi will arrive in New Delhi on Wednesday and meet Modi on Thursday. This is her first visit to India after taking over as Japanese PM on October 21 last year. Her visit is likely to coincide with Japan announcing a Rs 5.83 lakh crore private sector investment in India over the next 10 years.

Narendra Modi

Sanae Takaichi

Modi and Takaichi will discuss ways to expand cooperation in semiconductors, critical minerals, information and communication technology, clean energy and medical goods.

A source told *DH* that the summit would conclude with India and Japan issuing a joint declaration on economic security. It will strongly denounce economic coercion by some nations against others, subtly targeting both China and the US, the source added.

Ties between Japan and China have worsened in recent months, following Takaichi's remarks that China's military offensive on Taiwan could pose an existential threat to Japan and trigger a response by Japan's Self-Defence Forces in coordination with the US. Beijing retaliated with a series of measures, including a ban on exports of dual-use items to Japan, curbs on seafood imports, and other trade restrictions. The standoff escalated further when China imposed fresh export controls on 40 Japanese entities, including defence contractors and research institutions, accusing them of contributing to the "remilitarisation" of pacifist Japan.

China's coercive measures sharpened Japan's focus on economic security, resilient supply chains and closer coordination with countries such as India.

India's relations with the US also came under stress after President Donald Trump's tariff tirade and his move to press India to stop buying oil from Russia.

Modi and Takaichi are also expected to institutionalise a long-term AI cooperation framework, linking research institutions, technology companies and universities to jointly build domain-specific AI systems capable of supporting multiple languages. Tokyo is expected to facilitate the movement of skilled Indian AI professionals, with a target of taking 500 experts to Japan by the end of the decade.

Raj man in 'Modi mask' caught on CCTV in botched burglary

JAIPUR, PTI: A man wearing a mask resembling Prime Minister Narendra Modi was caught on CCTV allegedly attempting to break into a mobile phone shop in Rajasthan's Bhilwara district, police said on Tuesday.

The incident occurred on Sunday night in the Kareda police station area.

CCTV footage showed the man trying to break the lock of a mobile shop using an iron rod while wearing a mask commonly seen at political rallies featuring the prime minister's face.

Police said the accused was unable to break the lock and left the spot after a few attempts. The entire incident was captured by a CCTV camera installed near the shop.

Bengaluru Wednesday, July 1, 2026 Pages 20 Vol 79 No 181 ₹7

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The Power of Good

Morocco work another miracle

Africans show plenty of grit to down Dutch via penalties

Page 15

State

Goal is to make Karnataka drug-free by 2028: CM P.8

Nation

Champat Rai denies charges in Ram Temple fund theft case P.10

World

Hope fades in Venezuela quake search P.12

State

Sriki laundered Bitcoins: Court P.5

US Supreme Court rejects Trump bid to limit birthright citizenship

WASHINGTON, AFP: The US Supreme Court on Tuesday rejected President Donald Trump's bid to restrict birthright citizenship in a blow to one of his signature anti-immigration initiatives.

The court, in an eagerly awaited decision on the final day of its term, ruled 6-3 to maintain the right to American citizenship for nearly everyone born on US soil.

Trump signed an executive order last year on the first day of his second stint in the White House decreeing that children born to parents in the United States illegally or on temporary visas would not automatically become US citizens.

Lower courts blocked the move by the Republican president, ruling that under the Citizenship Clause of the 14th Amendment to the US Constitution nearly everyone born on US soil is an American citizen.

The Supreme Court agreed in a majority opinion penned by Chief Justice John Roberts that was joined by two other conservative justices and the three liberals on the top court.

"Children born in the United States to parents unlawfully or temporarily present are 'subject to the jurisdiction' of the United States and are citizens at birth under the Fourteenth Amendment's Citizenship Clause," Roberts wrote.

State SIR kicks off amid confusion, doubts

Lack of clarity on BLOs' jurisdiction, low teacher turnout

SUJAY B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

A BLO pastes a sticker on a house in Sahakarnagar during the SIR in Bengaluru on Tuesday. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

Count begins

59,050 Total polling stations

5,54,32,314 Total electors

2.25% Percentage distributed | **12,48,314** Enumeration forms distributed

Confusion and doubts prevailed on the ground as the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) kicked off in Karnataka on Tuesday with Block Level Officers (BLOs) beginning their house-to-house visits to issue enumeration forms.

The problems included lack of clarity on the jurisdiction of each BLO, inadequate training to BLOs to handle the SIR application, limited presence of school teachers due to a clash of teaching hours at school and the problem for linguistic minorities to deal with Kannada enumeration forms.

BLOs include government employees across departments, government and aided school teachers, ASHA and Anganwadi workers.

Enumeration forms are provided to all electors present on the voter rolls as of June 16, 2026. After issuing enumeration forms, BLOs paste a purple-coloured sticker on house walls, indicating that forms have been issued.

Once electors fill the forms (which is likely to take a few days), they can call the BLO concerned and submit the form. Online self-enumeration is also possible.

Confusion

When *DH* visited different locations across Assembly constituencies like Rajajinagar, Malleswaram and Shivajinagar, it was seen that members of the same family were assigned to different BLOs, causing confusion.

Jayakumar, a resident of Mariappanapalya, explained that he, his wife, and two children were assigned to one BLO, while his daughter-in-law was assigned to a different BLO.

In such cases, BLOs are confused as to who should paste the sticker on such occasions.

In another case, the names of all three members of a family in Shivajinagar constituency (whose house was at the border of a BLO's jurisdiction) were missing on the BLO's list.

Later, the names were found when checked with a neighbouring BLO's list. Such instances highlight the need for proper coordination amongst BLOs.

In some places, teachers finished school duties before appearing for SIR work, causing some delay.

On an average, each enumerator must cover 940-1,000 electors.

However, in some areas like Vasanthnagar in Shivajinagar Assembly constituency, BLOs were even allotted around 1,500 electors.

Several BLOs complained that they were overworked.

▸ SIR, Page 8

Oppn meets CJI on SIR

Twenty-three Opposition parties and an independent MP on Tuesday shot off a joint letter to Chief Justice of India Surya Kant appealing to the "conscience of the judiciary" on the SIR, "biased" conduct of the Election Commission of India and "manipulation" of electoral outcome, with the I.N.D.I.A bloc initiative getting a boost as DMK and AAP joined them. Page 10

CM, Chief Secy, actors covered

CM D K Shivakumar, Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh and BJP state president B Y Vijayendra were among those who participated in the SIR. The VIPs include ministers, MPs, MLAs, actors, bureaucrats and judges. Shivakumar participated in the SIR with his wife Usha.

Kharif sowing slumps 23% as monsoon remains weak

Storage in major reservoirs dips to 26% of capacity

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Amid delayed onset and sluggish progress of the southwest monsoon, sowing of kharif crops, including paddy, has fallen sharply this season, with the total acreage reaching just 182.72 lakh hectares as of June 25 — a 23% decline from 236.46 lakh hectares during the same period last year, according to data from the Union Agriculture Ministry.

Not only rice, but also pulses, oilseeds, coarse cereals and cotton have recorded lower sowing compared to the previous year, says the data.

Paddy acreage, the mainstay of the season, stood at 25.75 lakh hectares, down 25.17% from 34.41 lakh hectares a year ago. Pulses sowing declined 30.47% to 14.92 lakh hectares from 21.46 lakh hectares, while oilseeds area plunged more than half (53.33%) to 16.99 lakh hectares against 36.41 lakh hectares last year.

Within pulses, tur/arhar sowing was particularly low at 3.56 lakh hectares compared to 8.45 lakh hectares previously. In oilseeds, groundnut coverage dropped to 8.87 lakh hectares from 15.29 lakh hectares, and soybean acreage fell sharply to 6.92 lakh hectares from 19.97 lakh hectares.

The southwest monsoon, critical for kharif sowing, has been 42% below normal as of June 24, with central India facing a 59% deficit, East and Northeast 41%, South 28% and Northwest India 22%.

Coarse cereals were sown on 31.84 lakh hectares, down from 36.07 lakh hectares. Cotton sowing also suffered, declining 34.61% to 29.66 lakh hectares from 45.36 lakh hectares.

In contrast, sugarcane showed a marginal increase to 57.31 lakh hectares from 56.64 lakh hectares. Jute and mesta acreage edged up slightly to 6.25 lakh hectares from 6.13 lakh hectares.

▸ Kharif, Page 8

Sowing coverage

Crop	2026	2025
Paddy	25.75	34.41
Pulses	14.92	21.46
Oilseeds	16.	36.41
Tur	3.56	8.45
Groundnut	8.87	15.29

(In lakhs of hectares)

Inflow dwindles in state's dams

Four of the six major reservoirs in the Krishna basin are receiving zero water inflow. The four major reservoirs in the Cauvery basin together received 3,121 cusecs of water inflow on June 30 against the 54,010 cusecs they received on the same date last year.
Details on Page 8

BATTLING THE BLAZE

Firefighters try to douse a blaze after a major fire broke out at a naphtha-carrying pipeline of Haldia Petrochemicals, leaving more than 10 people injured, in Purba Medinipur district in West Bengal on Tuesday. PTI

India to add strategic fuel reserves after Iran war shock

BLOOMBERG: India plans to build strategic reserves of crude, LPG and LNG large enough to meet as much as a month of domestic demand, as the country seeks to avoid a repeat of the supply shock created by the Iran war.

The oil ministry has set up a committee to study details including potential locations, operating models and the split between overground and underground storage, said sources. India has been one of the most impacted nations in the aftermath of US and Israeli strikes on Iran, including the near-total closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

The oil ministry did not immediately respond to queries on the plan.
Details on Page 13

Data collection crippled as over 50% rain gauges defunct

NRUPATHUNGA S K
SHIVAMOGGA, DHNS

> Around 1,959 stations were left out of annual maintenance as they had remained inactive for the last three years. No department had taken responsibility for their maintenance at the district level.
>
> **M S DIVAKARA**
> Director, KSNDMC

The collection of rainfall data in the state has been hampered for at least the last three years, as more than 50% of the 6,605 rain gauges are non-functional due to various reasons, including damage and poor maintenance.

The Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC) depends on these stations to collect rainfall data, which is crucial for agricultural planning, crop loss assessment, addressing issues related to water security, and developing early warning systems to mitigate natural disasters such as floods and droughts.

Sources in the KSNDMC said that several gram panchayats, mostly in Malnad districts, had either covered the roofs of buildings housing rain gauges with sheets to prevent water leakage or shifted the machines and installed sheets due to a lack of awareness.

The authority was not receiving data from around 1,444 stations, as the machines were either covered or relocated.

KSNDMC Director M S Divakara said around 1,959 stations were left out of annual maintenance as they had remained inactive for the last three years. "To address this, an Additional Deputy Commissioner has been appointed as the nodal officer for rain gauge stations in each district. The damaged devices are being replaced and all stations will be made operational within a month," he said.

▸ Rain gauge, Page 8

Below normal rainfall forecast for July

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

After a vastly deficient June, India may experience "below normal" monsoon in July as well with the India Meteorological Department on Tuesday predicting less than 94% of the average rainfall for the month.

While showers are expected in the first seven to 10 days of July, the situation is likely to worsen in the second half of the month, which traditionally accounts for one-third of the southwest monsoon's total rainfall.

"July is our rainiest month. The first 10 days of rainfall will help sowing. But the monthly average rainfall as a whole in July 2026 is likely to be below normal," Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, director general meteorology at the IMD said.
Details on Page 10

LANGUAGE LESSONS

State mum as CBSE, ICSE schools flout Kannada Act

RASHMI BELUR
BENGALURU, DHNS

The NCERT's third-language Kannada textbook (R3) for CBSE schools in the state has raised questions over the status of the Kannada Language Learning Act, which requires all schools to teach Kannada language as either the first or second language.

The state government is facing flak for "inefficiency" in making sure the law is applicable to all schools, even those affiliated to the CBSE and CISCE.

V P Niranjanaradhya, Development Educationist who is also member of the High Power Committee constituted to monitor the implementation of the Act said, "The committee was constituted in 2022 to ensure effective implementation and it is headed by the School Education Minister. But I don't remember when the committee met last. This shows the state government's commitment to Kannada."

He added, "The state government is not implementing their own legislation and this shows the inefficiency and ignorance towards the language."

Chairperson of Kannada Development Authority (KDA) Purushothama Bilimale opined that the School Education department must challenge this move by CBSE in the court. "This is a clear violation of Kannada Language Learning Act 2015. The implementation of the Act has completely gone off track," he said.

Bilimale even wrote to then minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa reminding him about the Act soon after CBSE's announcement of the three language policy. "We will meet Chief Minister D K Shivakumar soon," he said.

Bilimale even had a meeting with the Additional Chief Secretary of the School Education and Literacy department Rashmi Mahesh and discussed the issue on Monday.

According to the Act, the Deputy Directors of the School Education department are authorised to issue notices to schools violating the Act.

▸ CBSE, Page 8

Kannada 3rd language in some schools

Contrary to the Act, there are schools affiliated to state board where Kannada is a third language and according to the SSLC results data, at least 11,000 students study Kannada as third language.

Quickly

Verification drive for 'Gruha Jyothi' from today

The Energy department will carry out door-to-door verification process for all beneficiaries of the Karnataka government's flagship 'Gruha Jyothi' scheme from July 1. This process will be completed on-site using a mobile application and a declaration form.
Details on Page 5

WhatsApp rolls out usernames to boost privacy

Meta-owned WhatsApp has announced a major privacy upgrade with the introduction of usernames, allowing its users to connect and message each other without sharing their phone numbers. The messaging platform said that users can reserve unique usernames ahead of a wider rollout later this year.
Details on Page 13

Govt extends GSTAT filing deadline to July 31

The Central government on Tuesday extended the deadline for filing appeals before the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) to July 31, giving taxpayers additional time to submit pending cases. The decision came after various stakeholders flagged issues in the tribunal's portal.
Details on Page 13

Financial system susceptible to geopolitical tensions: RBI

Though headwinds from the West Asia conflict are receding with the signing of an interim peace deal between the United States and Iran, the Indian economy and the financial system continue to remain susceptible to geopolitical tensions and associated shocks, RBI said on Tuesday.
Details on Page 13

Govt retains small savings interest rates

The government on Tuesday left interest rates unchanged for various small savings schemes, including PPF and NSC, for the ninth straight quarter, beginning July 1, 2026. The interest rates for popular public provident fund and post office savings deposit schemes have been retained at 7.1% and 4%, respectively.

Dedicated ambulances for Namma Metro passengers

The state government will soon start dedicated ambulance services to provide emergency medical care to passengers on the Bengaluru Metro rail network, Health and Family Welfare Minister U T Khader announced on Tuesday. Khader said he would hold discussions with the Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) to deploy ambulances and station healthcare workers at major stations.
Details on Page 8

RWAs to get first preference in tree-plantation initiatives

BENGALURU, DHNS: Moving away from contractor-driven plantation drives, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) will partner with citizens and Residents' Welfare Associations (RWAs) to plant 64,130 saplings across the city this year.

Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda on Tuesday directed officials to prioritise community participation, while pulling up Forest Department officials over discrepancies in the city's tree plantation records.

He said the saplings would have a higher survival rate if corporations partnered with citizens instead of passing the responsibility entirely to contractors.

Krishna Byre Gowda

The minister pointed out that while official records claim nearly 20 lakh saplings have been planted since 2008, the ongoing tree census indicates that only about nine lakh trees currently exist.

"The corporation spends Rs 2,300 to plant one sapling. When it comes to compensatory afforestation activity, planting each sapling costs Rs 3,108. This includes excavation, watering of the plant for three years, tree guard and security personnel." Yet, the survival rate has been very low, he said.

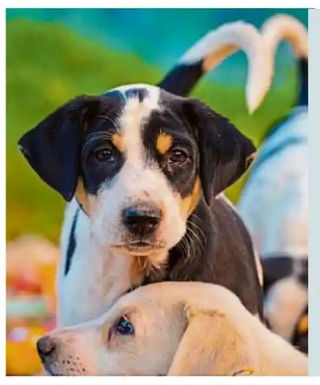
Going forward, he said, first preference will be given to RWAs. "We are ready to give saplings to citizens. If a layout requires 50 plants, we will provide them. The assistant engineer of the ward will be the nodal officer," he said, adding that plantation along the roads would be taken up only if requests from citizens were limited.

He urged citizens to report dangerous trees, dried branches and tree-related hazards through the Sahaaya app, which helps officials track online complaints and initiate action.

The meeting was attended by GBA Chief M Maheshwar Rao, corporation commissioners, special commissioners and senior officials from the Forest Department and other agencies.

Where's the result? KBG fumes at poor ABC implementation

Action plan sought to tackle street dog menace



In a first

- Tuesday's review marked one of the first dedicated meetings held to assess Bengaluru's stray dog management programme since the formation of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA).
- No minister in the past had convened an exclusive meeting on the issue, despite a rise in dog bite cases reported in the city.

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) plans to double its annual stray dog sterilisation capacity from 45,000 to 90,000, as part of a three-year roadmap to achieve 100% Animal Birth Control (ABC) coverage across the city.

Reviewing the city's animal welfare programme on Tuesday, Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda directed officials to prepare a comprehensive action plan to tackle street dogs.

He also sharply criticised officials from the Animal Husbandry Department over inefficiencies and discrepancies in the implementation of the long-running ABC programme.

"As per records, around 8.80 lakh dogs have been sterilised and nearly Rs 42 crore has been spent in the last four years.

"However, the dog population has not come down. Where is the result?" the minister questioned officials.

"The problem persists for the last 20 years, whereas money is being spent every year. Five private agencies are running the show and the same set of officers continue without delivering any work to show," he said.

Officer asked to leave

Visibly angry, the minister instructed GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao to relieve an officer who came to the meeting without the required data.

Noting that the current pace of implementation will take another 20 years to reduce the dog population, Gowda instructed officials to expand sterilisation infrastructure, rope in more implementing agencies, appoint additional veterinarians on contract and invite experienced organisations from across Karnataka and the country to participate in the programme.

Tuesday's review marked one of the first dedicated meetings convened to assess Bengaluru's stray dog management programme since the formation of the GBA.

No minister in the past had held an exclusive meeting to tackle the stray dog problem even though the city is reporting a surge in dog bite cases. In the last six months, Bengaluru reported over 18,000 dog bite cases.

Members of the Karnataka Rakshana Vedike protest near the signboard installed at BEL Circle on Tuesday.

Pro-Kannada outfit pulls down 'illegal' Hindi board at BEL Circle

BENGALURU, DHNS: Members of the Karnataka Rakshana Vedike (KRV) on Tuesday removed a Hindi signboard installed at BEL Circle, alleging that it had been put up illegally and amounted to Hindi imposition on Karnataka.

The organisation said the signboard, located on a public road near the Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) campus, had been installed without authorisation.

KRV members dismantled the signboard during the protest and said they would continue to oppose what they described as attempts to promote Hindi in the state.

KRV state president TA Narayana Gowda said the organisation would not allow Hindi imposition on Karnataka and would resist any such move, irrespective of the manner in which it was introduced.

KRV argued that generations of Kannadigas had contributed to the growth of BEL and questioned the rationale behind displaying a Hindi signboard on a public road outside the institution rather than within its premises.

It also cited other central public sector undertakings in Bengaluru, including BEML, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), ITI Limited, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and HMT Limited, saying these institutions had played a significant role in shaping Bengaluru as an industrial hub.

KRV alleged the promotion of Hindi in such establishments formed part of a larger pattern that it would oppose.

4,500 e-buses for B'luru to strain state finances: Minister

BENGALURU, DHNS

Transport Minister Byrathi Suresh on Monday said Karnataka must carefully examine the pros and cons before taking a decision on leasing 4,500 electric buses for Bengaluru under a central scheme.

Under PM E-Drive, Bengaluru will receive 4,500 buses over eight years. These low-floor buses, which the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) will operate, include 4,100 non-AC and 400 AC buses, *DH* reported earlier.

The Centre will offer subsidies of Rs 35 lakh per standard bus (10-12 metres), Rs 25 lakh (midi bus, 8-10 metres) and Rs 20 lakh (minibus, 6-8 metres). Only e-buses with an ex-factory price of less than Rs 2 crore are incentivised.

Although Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL), under the Ministry of Power, finalised the lowest bidders in November 2025, contracts have yet to be awarded.

Noting that the Centre was not fully funding the buses, Suresh said the state would have to pay the contractor Rs 2,850-3,000 crore annually based on the kilometres operated. He said Karnataka needs electric buses, but the decision would be taken only after assessing the financial implications.

A BMTC electric bus crashed on Seshadri Road in August 2025. Breakdowns and accidents are a recurring issue with e-buses. DH FILE

BJP MP LS Tejasvi Surya has alleged that Karnataka was delaying approval for leasing the buses.

Suresh pointed out that under the contract, the state would have to pay the contractor even if the buses did not operate due to breakdowns or technical issues—a recurrent issue with EVs.

"If the buses run or don't run, the state is still expected to pay. "How?" Suresh asked, adding that the Centre's policy lacked clarity. He said the issue would be discussed with the chief minister before a final decision is taken.

Bus fare hike soon

Suresh said petrol and diesel prices have been increased four times in the past five to six months, but the government had so far refrained from increasing bus fares. However, a modest fare revision is now under consideration. Officials are working out the extent of the increase, he added.

The proposal would be discussed with Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and the Cabinet before a final decision.

Suresh said the government owed the transport corporations Rs 5,500 crore under the Shakti scheme. "We have requested the chief minister to release these dues at the earliest," he said.

He also said pending salary arrears of transport corporation employees would be released after reviewing the state's financial position.

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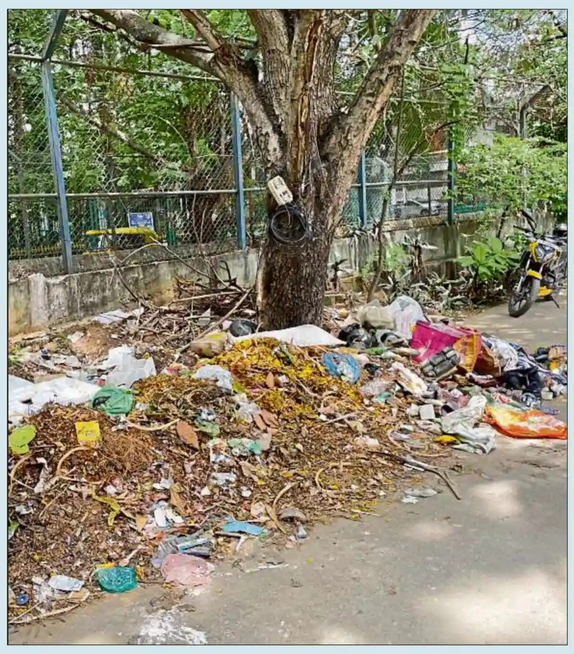
Almost every locality in Bengaluru has a street corner or vacant plot that has turned into an informal garbage dump. These black spots are not merely an eyesore; they are a threat to public health and the environment. Deccan Herald and Prajavani invite citizens to share details and photographs of such sites for publication in these columns, in order to help push for timely action from the authorities.
Citizens are also encouraged to share photos of garbage black spots cleared after being highlighted in these columns.



A growing pile of uncleared garbage at JP Nagar 2nd Phase. This particularly draws attention to the garbage menace on 4th Cross, 17th Main, between Chirag Hospital and Gnana Jyothi School. A RESIDENT

Uncleared garbage litters the area near the Annapoorneshwari Nagar police station in Nagarbhavi. A RESIDENT

ADB

e-Procurement Cell
JHARKHAND STATE BUILDING CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LTD., RANCHI

Invitation for Bids

Date:	29 June 2026
Project No. and Title:	55262-002 – IND: Jharkhand Action for Generating Responsive and Inclusive Transformations in Health Infrastructure (JAGRITI)
Contract No. and Title:	JAGRITI/RIMS2/CW/01:Construction of 2,800 Bedded Multi Speciality Teaching Hospital Cum Medical College at Ranchi (Jharkhand), India (Design and Build Contract)
Deadline for Submission of Bids:	17 August 2026 at 3:00 PM (Delhi Time)

1. The **Government of India** has applied financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of **Jharkhand Action for Generating Responsive and Inclusive Transformations in Health Infrastructure (JAGRITI).** Part of this financing will be used for payments under the Contract named above. Bidding is open to Bidders from eligible source countries of ADB.
2. The **Jharkhand State Building Construction Corporation Limited (JSBCCL) on behalf of Department of Health, Medical Education & Family Welfare (DHMEFW)**("the Employer") invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the construction and completion of **2,800 Bedded Multi Specialty Teaching Hospital Cum Medical College at Ranchi (Jharkhand), India**("the Works").
3. Open competitive bidding – International advertisement will be conducted in accordance with Single-Stage: Two-Envelope Bidding Procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.
4. Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications defined in the Bidding Document may participate in this bidding:
   i. Minimum Average Annual Construction Turnover in last 3 years – Rs 1667 Cr;
   ii. Financial Resource – Rs 208 Cr;
   iii. Substantially completed after March 2021 at least 1 Contract of Rs1500 Cr/ 2 Contracts of Rs 1000 Cr/ 3 Contracts of Rs 500 Cr for Hospital/Institutional/Residential Building;
   iv. Substantially completed minimum 350 bedded Hospital project after March 2021; and
   v. Experience in key activities (any six) for (a) Design of Hospital / medical college building for minimum 350 bedded hospital; (b) HMIS; (c) MGPS; (d) MOT; (e) PTS; (f) CSSD;(g) Laundry system; (h) Hospital Furniture; (i) VRF/HVAC; (j) Fire Fighting system; (k)ETP/STP.

Other details are mentioned in the bidding document.

5. To obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents, Bidders should contact:
   Jharkhand State Building Construction Corporation Ltd, Project Bhawan Campus
   3rd Floor,JSBCCL Building, Ranchi (Jharkhand) 834004
   Telephone No.: +91-651-2446257/2446258/2446259
   Email Address: jsbccljharkhand@gmail.com
6. To purchase the bidding documents in English, eligible Bidders should:
   - visit Government etender portal @https://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in and pay a nonrefundable fee of INR10,000.00 by online payment, i.e., Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS), National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT).

   Name of the Account: Jharkhand State Building Construction Corporation Ltd
   Account No.: 35470736964
   IFSC Code: SBIN0010401
   Name of the Bank: State Bank of India
   Branch: Project Bhawan, Dhurwa, Ranchi
7. Submit Online bid
   - to the address https://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in
   - Pre Bid Meeting Date is 10- July -2026 at 02:00 PM (Delhi Time) at Jharkhand State Building Construction Corporation Ltd, Project Bhawan Campus 3rd Floor,JSBCCL Building, Ranchi (Jharkhand) 834004
   - on or before the deadline **17 August 2026 at 3:00 PM (Delhi Time)** and
   - Together with a Bid Security as described in the Bidding Document.
8. Bids will be opened promptly after the deadline for bid submission in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attendas per follows:
   - Date / Time of Opening of Bid :17 August 2026 at 03:30 PM

Nodal Officer
e-Procurement Cell
Jharkhand State Building Construction Corporation Ltd., Ranchi.

PR 383626 Jharkhand State Building Construction Corp. Ltd(26-27)

The bustling lanes of the Chickpet market area. DH FILE PHOTO

Spl team to audit illegal structures, fire safety in Chickpet

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) said it would conduct a survey to identify unauthorised buildings in Chickpet, the city's traditional business hub.

GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao on Tuesday directed officials to set up a special team of town planners to undertake the survey.

The team will identify unauthorised buildings during the survey, issue notices to owners and initiate action as per law.

Considering the risk of fire accidents in sensitive areas such as Chickpet, Rao directed officials to conduct a fire safety audit to assess firefighting systems, emergency exits, and preparedness measures.

He also directed Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited (KRDCL) officials to resolve land acquisition issues in pending stretches of roadworks and expedite the process to ensure the works are completed within the deadline.

Noting that sewage has been entering the K-100 waterway at certain locations, he directed officials to take measures to prevent the inflow and protect the waterway.

"To facilitate better coordination of urban infrastructure projects, he instructed Bescom officials to submit a comprehensive map of underground utility cables at the earliest," the GBA said in a statement

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SC ruling in hand, Greenpeace flags Bengaluru's footpath crisis

BENGALURU, DHNS: Days after the Supreme Court declared the Right to Walk on footpaths a fundamental right, Greenpeace India, a not-for-profit, organised the 'Bengaluru Rising' campaign along with residents of RR Nagar to draw attention to the city's unsafe pedestrian infrastructure.

Volunteers cordon off unsafe footpaths with yellow "crime scene" tape reading "Constitutional Right Denied Here" as part of a campaign highlighting the lack of safe pedestrian infrastructure. PHOTO: GREENPEACE

As part of the campaign, volunteers placed yellow "crime scene" tape carrying the message "Constitutional Right Denied Here" on stretches where the footpaths are not safe for pedestrians.

"Despite being one of India's fastest growing cities, Bengaluru remains difficult and often unsafe to navigate on foot. While the city has over 14,000 km of roads, a 2025 assessment found only 2.9 km of usable footpaths across its 1,671 km of arterial and sub-arterial roads," the organisation said in a statement.

In Bengaluru, pedestrians accounted for nearly 28% of all road fatalities in 2025, with 218 pedestrian deaths recorded by the end of November, underlining the consequences of unsafe and inaccessible walking infrastructure.

"Footpaths are public commons and the foundation of an equitable transport system," said Amruta SN, campaigner, Greenpeace India.

"Every bus or metro journey begins and ends with a walk. If we want more people to choose public transport and active mobility, we must first guarantee safe, continuous and accessible footpaths. This judgment is a reminder that walking is not a privilege. It is a fundamental right."

The Rotary Club of Bangalore (RCB) installed its office-bearers for Rotary year 2026-27 at a ceremony held at the Rotary House of Friendship on June 29.
Standing (L-R): PP Rtn Zarir Batha (Additional Director), Rtn Dr Maneesh Paul (Director, Community Service), Rtn Dr Anju Agadi (Director, Youth Service), Rtn Dr Anil Agadi (Sergeant at Arms), Rtn Dr Gertrude Dsouza (Joint Secretary), Rtn MC Dinesh (President Elect), Rtn TV Raghunath (Vice-President), Rtn Jigisha Rajguru (Treasurer), Rtn RV Bhat (Director, Vocational Service), Rtn Kamalacharan (Director, International Service), and PP Rtn Shailesh Rudra (Additional Director).
Sitting (L-R): Rtn Vijay Rao (Secretary, RCB), Rtn N Balakrishnan (Assistant Governor, RI Dist 3192), DG Rtn AKS Ravishankar Dakoju (RI Dist 3192), Rtn Vineetha Chinappa (President, RCB), Bhaskar Bhat, Trustee at Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, Immediate Past President Rtn Sukhen Padmanabha, and Immediate Past Secretary Rtn Kavita Muthappa.

Daycare horror: Five booked after videos allegedly show toddlers being tortured

Police probe reveals abuse at childcare centre inside IT company campus

MANJUNATH SHETTAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Five women have been booked for allegedly physically abusing toddlers at a daycare centre inside the campus of a well-known IT company in eastern Bengaluru's Brookefield.

Police registered the case after disturbing videos purportedly showing the abuse of children, aged between 2 and 3 years, surfaced and were reported to the Child Helpline.

According to the FIR, the complaint was lodged after videos showing children crying and allegedly being subjected to physical and mental abuse were shared with the complainant via WhatsApp.

Based on the complaint, HAL police registered a case and launched an investigation.

A preliminary inquiry identified the accused as Manjula, Vijayalakshmi, Sindhu, Bhavani and Bindu, all employees of the childcare facility where employees of the IT company leave their children during working hours.

The videos allegedly show the caregivers intimidating the toddlers whenever they cried or caused a disturbance. They are accused of placing children inside a front loading washing machine, forcing them to sit in a western style toilet commode, spraying water into their mouths with a toilet jet spray, locking them inside bathrooms, and threatening them into silence.

Police registered a case against the five women under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act and took them into custody for questioning on Tuesday.

Investigators are verifying the authenticity of the videos and trying to establish when the incidents occurred and whether more children were subjected to similar abuse.

"The video footage is being examined to ascertain the exact date and circumstances of the incidents," a senior police officer said.

THE ALLEGATIONS

- Videos show caregivers intimidating toddlers when they cried or became restless.
- Children placed inside a front-loading washing machine.
- Infants forced to sit on a western-style toilet commode.
- Toilet jet spray used to spray water into children's mouths.
- Children locked inside bathrooms.
- Children threatened into silence.
- Videos being verified.
- FIR lodged from District Child Protection Unit, Bengaluru East.

Gas leak triggers fire in apartment; no casualties

The blaze was noticed on the top floor of a G+3 apartment building near Garuda Mall on Tuesday afternoon.

BENGALURU, DHNS: A suspected gas leak triggered a fire at an apartment complex in central Bengaluru on Tuesday, officials said.

No casualties or injuries were reported.

The fire and emergency department received an alert about the blaze on the top floor of a G+3 apartment building near Garuda Mall at 3.23 pm.

"At 3.24 pm, one fire tender was dispatched to the spot," a fire official told *DH*.

The house was occupied by a family of four.

A preliminary probe revealed that while cooking was underway, a leak led to the pipe catching fire and then the cylinder. The occupants managed to escape unhurt.

An investigation has been launched to ascertain the cause of the fire.

Three killed in road accidents; two in E-City, one near Hoskote

BENGALURU, DHNS: Three people lost their lives in separate road accidents reported from different parts of the city on Monday night.

Rear-end collision

In the first incident, a 25-year-old private company employee was killed after a speeding utility vehicle rammed his motorcycle from behind on the Electronics City flyover.

The deceased, identified as Francis, was riding back home after finishing his shift around 9.30 pm when a Cruiser car heading in the same direction bumped his two-wheeler near the Metro Junction.

A severely injured Francis was rushed to a nearby hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries during treatment.

Biker knocked down

In another accident under the Electronics City traffic police limits, a 30-year-old motorcyclist died after being struck by a water tanker near Neeladri Nagar. The victim, Syed Yousuf, was riding from Neeladri Nagar towards Hulimangala around 10 pm when a water tanker knocked him down in front of Ramadev medical store. Yousuf sustained grievous injuries and was immediately moved to a nearby hospital. However, he died without responding to treatment on Tuesday morning.

The Electronics City traffic police have registered two separate cases regarding these accidents and have launched an investigation.

Lorry slams into pole

A speeding lorry driver was killed on the spot after his vehicle slammed into an electric pole near Jadigenahalli in Hoskote.

The deceased, 37-year-old Mahesh, lost control of the steering wheel due to high speed, causing the truck to veer off the road and smash into a roadside electric pole. The impact was such that he died on the spot.

BWSSB Chairperson N Manjula addresses the workshop on Tuesday.

After STP tragedy, BWSSB holds workshop on workers' safety

BENGALURU, DHNS: Days after a worker died at the BWSSB's sewage treatment plant (STP) in Varthur, Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) Chairperson Manjula N on Tuesday urged workers to prioritise safety.

"Precautionary measures should be taken to prevent any mishap/accident. Workers should also remain vigilant," she said, addressing a workshop on workplace safety and health.

The workshop was organised to discuss measures to improve employee safety and strengthen safety protocols at BWSSB facilities.

Manjula also encouraged workers to openly raise any issues they face so that they can be addressed promptly.

Slain physio had told cops she wanted to marry partner

BENGALURU, DHNS

A day after the mysterious death of 25-year-old physiotherapist Sai Surabhi at a homestay near Nandi Hills, investigators have found that she had earlier informed the police in writing that she wished to marry her partner, Sanjeeth Ali PP, 26, and was living with him of her own free will.

Police are awaiting the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) report to ascertain the exact cause of her death. Liquor and medicine strips were found at the scene.

Investigators said the probe has been affected as Surabhi's mother, TR Geetha, has not provided a clear or consistent statement. The family, however, has alleged that Surabhi was killed by Ali.

Police also found that Geetha had filed a missing complaint at the Basavanagudi police station years ago after Surabhi left home. Later, Surabhi appeared before the police and submitted a written statement declaring she was a major, had chosen to marry Ali of her own will, and accused her mother of filing a false complaint.

The duo reportedly knew each other since college at a private institution in Kumaraswamy Layout and had been living together at Mango Garden Layout in Bikasipura.

Police said these findings indicate a longstanding consensual relationship, though all angles are being examined.

The post-mortem was conducted at the district hospital on Tuesday, after which the body was handed over to the family.

Ali, who allegedly consumed pills during the incident, remains unconscious and is in the ICU of a private hospital. His statement is awaited to reconstruct the sequence of events.

On Monday, Surabhi was found dead inside a homestay room, while Ali, a mechanical engineering graduate from Kerala's Kozhikode, was found unconscious. He had checked in on Saturday, and Surabhi later joined him without the knowledge of the homestay caretaker.

The Nandi Giridhama police have registered a case of suspected murder based on a complaint by Surabhi's mother.

Four Nepalese nationals held after brawl outside Vidhana Soudha

BENGALURU, DHNS

A group of Nepalese nationals allegedly created a ruckus in front of Vidhana Soudha after a minor argument over taking photographs escalated into a violent brawl.

Police said the arrested have been identified as Shakti, Ishwar, Dipendra, and another associate.

They were working as security guards employed with a private company in Kaggadasapura near Indiranagar.

According to police, around 20 people had attended a gathering in Chamarajpet on Sunday. While returning, they stopped near Vidhana Soudha to take photographs.

A quarrel broke out between two groups after one objected to the other taking pictures. The verbal altercation soon turned violent, with members of both groups assaulting each other using helmets in full public view.

A video of the incident on the busy road went viral on social media, drawing criticism over repeated instances of public violence in the city.

Based on a complaint, Vidhana Soudha police registered a case and arrested the four accused, who were later remanded to judicial custody.

2025 incident

A similar incident was reported in November 2025, when police registered a suo motu case after videos of a public brawl surfaced on social media, leading to arrests.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

75th Founder's Day: Organised by Wilson Garden Education Society; Srikanta Swamy, Jagadish Reddy, and others to participate; Society premises, Hombegowdanagar; 10.30 am.

Press Day Seminar: On 'Who is the real journalist in this digital era?'; Organised by Karnataka Media Academy; Keynote address by Abdussalam Puthige; Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, PC Mohan, Dinesh Gundu Rao and others to take part; Mahadeva Desai Auditorium, Gandhi Bhavan, Kumarakrupa Road; 11 am.

GST Day: Organised by Central Taxes Department, Bengaluru Circle; Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court Vibhu Bakhru to participate; Kaveri Hall, CR Building, Queens Road; 5 pm.

Bharatanatyam lecture demonstration: 'The Temple of Thiruvarur Through the Compositions of Sri Muttuswami Dikshitar'; Jagadishwaar Sukumar to perform; Bangalore International Centre, Domlur; 7 pm.

CULTURAL

Play: 'Katthala Neralu', directed by Venkatesh Prasad; Siri Ravikumar, Balaji Manohar and others to perform; Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; 7.30 pm.

Invites to be published in this column should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with light rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	28.5°C
Minimum	20.7°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	70%
Sunset (July 1)	6:50 pm
Sunrise (July 2)	5:57 am
Moonrise	6:30 am
Moonset	5:06 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

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Belagavi
Date : 01/07/2026
Shri Amit P. Kore
Chairman, Board of Management,
KLE Society, Belagavi

SBI
State Bank of India
Regional Business Office - 4 Peenya
Administrative Office 2,3rdFloor, SBI K.G Road Complex
Bengaluru – 560009

PREMISES REQUIRED ON LEASE

State Bank of India Invites offers from owners/Power of Attorney holders for premises on lease rental basis for Commercial / Office use having carpet area of about 372 Sq. mt.(4000 Sqft +/- 25%) preferably at Ground Floor for SBI Vijaynagar 2nd Stage Branch to be located on main road within a radius of 1.00 KM from existing premises at 103 Guru Krupa , Da Ra Bendre Road, Near BSNL Telephone Exchange, Manuvana, Vijayanagar 2nd Stage Bengaluru, Pin - 560010.
The format for submission of the technical bid containing detailed parameters, terms and conditions and price bid can be downloaded from https://sbi.bank.in/web/sbi-in-the-news/procurement-news from 01.07.2026 to 14.07.2026.The offers containing the technical bid and price bid shall be submitted separately in two different sealed covers to SBI Regional Business Office-4 Peenya, Administrative Office-2 , 3rd Floor, SBI Building, K.G Road, Bengaluru-560009 on or before 3.30PM on 14.07.2026. Brokers will not be entertained.

Place : Bengaluru
Date :01.07.2026
Sd/
Regional Manager
Regional Business Office IV, AO 2

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BCA — QUALIFICATION : ME / M.Tech / MCA with Ph.D in relevant branch with a minimum 60% marks and a minimum of 5 years of Industry/ Teaching experience.

LECTURER
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KLE's Degree College Nagarbhavi, Bengaluru

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LECTURER
at KLE's S. Nijalingappa College, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru

FAD (FASHION AND APPAREL DESIGN) — QUALIFICATION : M.Sc in Fashion and Textiles/Fashion Designing/ Fashion and Apparel Management/ M.Tech in Fashion Technology/ Textile Management.

Salary : As per AICTE scale
Interested candidates send your resume to klebbabcarecruitment@gmail.com on or before 10th July, 2026.

For Further Details Contact : 90804 05052

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Smart glasses spark privacy fears

The next-gen eyewear promises convenience, but its discreet camera has left some people feeling uneasy

BARKHA KUMARI
TEAM METROLIFE

Eight months ago, during an outing to a restaurant on M G Road, Neha (name changed) agreed when a fellow diner asked to take her picture. "Done," the person said a second later. Puzzled, Neha looked around. There was no phone or camera in sight. The person had taken the picture using her smart glasses. "A camera should look like a camera. I felt creeped out. What if others don't ask and simply click?" Neha told *Metrolife*.

Smart glasses look like ordinary eyewear but pack a camera, microphone, and AI features into their frames. They can play music, make calls, provide directions and capture photos or videos, with just a voice command or quick tap. Their discreet design has raised privacy concerns online, earning them the nickname "spy glasses". Although users and tech experts say a tiny LED blinks while recording, they admit the indicator can be easy to miss, especially from a distance.

According to CyberMedia Research, Meta's Ray-Ban smart glasses account for 85% of India's market. The same line of smart glasses, priced between Rs 39,900 and Rs 45,700, has also gained popularity in Bengaluru. An Electronics City retailer says it sells five to six pairs every weekend, mostly to youngsters and middle-aged buyers, including content creators. Technology columnist Tushar Kanwar says the glasses have also found favour among young parents and pet owners who want to record cute moments instantly.

More than a camera

Users and prospective buyers in Bengaluru see these gadgets as more than covert cameras. They use them to listen to music while commuting, make hands-free calls, and record moments with the same ethics they would apply to a phone or DSLR.

Former sports anchor Avanish Hegde has been shooting all his content with smart glasses since February. "I want to tell human-interest stories through sport and capture them in a raw, candid way. But the moment people see a camera, they become a little guarded," says the 33-year-old. So he first strikes up a conversation with his interviewees and later tells them that he has been recording. "Two out of 10 people aren't comfortable with their video being posted online, so I delete it then and there. But no one has ever said, 'How dare you film me without permission?'" he says.

Restaurateur and tech geek Uday Rao P owns two pairs of smart glasses. He uses them to capture street scenes while travelling and family moments at home. But inside his restaurant, he covers the camera with a bindi. "Diners are becoming more aware of smart glasses, and this is my way of reassuring them they aren't being recorded," explains the 39-year-old. Others are using smart glasses to create travel vlogs, do street photography, and make prank content.

After interviewing people, content creator Avanish Hegde informs them he recorded them using his Meta Ray-Ban smart glasses (pictured here) and asks for their consent before uploading the videos.

Need more controls

While Tushar believes self-regulation is the best solution, he says there will always be room for misuse, and people will find a way to "circumvent the restrictions". He cites the case of the arrest of a Gujarat businessman inside the Ram Temple complex in Ayodhya earlier this year for allegedly taking photographs using smart glasses.

For data activist Thejesh G N, the bigger issue is a lack of public awareness. "Most people don't know what smart glasses look like or what the blinking light means. When someone raises a phone or camera today, people recognise they may be photographed and can either step aside or question the photographer. The blinking light hasn't yet become a social sign," he explains.

Tushar feels imposing overly strict laws on an emerging technology may not be the right approach. Instead, he suggests manufacturers could consider building more safeguards. These could include "brighter indicator lights and audible chimes to make recording unmistakably recognisable". He also suggests requiring a voice command or a physical shutter button instead of a discreet tap on the frame. Other ideas include limiting facial recognition of strangers, automatically disabling recording in high-security areas or places where photography is prohibited, such as museums, and providing activity logs showing "what was recorded, whether it was processed by AI, and whether it was uploaded to company servers". He also proposes that phone makers could introduce a 'Do Not Record' feature that smart glasses could detect, which would then automatically blur the faces of people who opt in.

Thejesh is also concerned about where the data ends up. "When you take pictures in public, you are not just capturing people but also malls and theatres in the surroundings. That can feed surveillance-based capitalism, like targeted advertising, or be used to train AI models," he says.

LEGAL STANDPOINT

Data privacy lawyer Srikant Parthasarathy says filming in public falls under two legal frameworks in India. "The Copyright Act protects the rights of the person creating the content and deals with issues such as fair use and licensing. It does not address the consent of the person being filmed."

The second is the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act. Although notified, it is about eight months from implementation. Until then, personal data continues to be governed largely by the Information Technology Act, which primarily covers sensitive personal data. In contrast, the DPDP Act treats all personal content as personal data and places greater responsibility on companies that collect, store and process it. "Until it comes into force, we are operating in a vacuum," he says.

POPCORN

Certified matters

The passport is only a travel document, not proof of citizenship. That's what the authorities just said. They are splitting hairs, of course, and underlining the fine print you never cared to read. Someone took up this line of thought and said a marriage certificate is not a certificate of marriage; it's just a document certifying your attendance at a wedding. Yeah, could be your own. Taking this to a logical conclusion, you could argue a death certificate doesn't mean someone is dead; it just means a feast was hosted with uddin vade and payasa on the menu. And a degree certificate? You had Kumbakonam degree coffee on the way to Chennai.

EVENTS

Art lecture

Artist Namrata Arjun will deliver a lecture on the influences behind M F Husain's iconic horses on July 4, 2-4 pm, at Atta Galatta, Indiranagar. The session traces art history from prehistoric cave paintings to Indian modernism through different perspectives. For details, check @pintofview.club on Instagram.

Film talk

Ananya Kasaravalli will join playwright and critic Sandhya Rani for a conversation on her journey as a theatre artiste, actor and director, on July 3, 6 pm, at the Museum of Art and Photography, Kasturba Road. Check map-india.org

Benny Prasad during his tour of North Korea.

Globe-trotting musician back in spotlight

SHRADDHA A K
TEAM METROLIFE

Indian musician and motivational speaker Benny Prasad is back in the news after attending the Most Travelled People (MTP) event in Portugal. The gathering brought together 103 people who had visited all 193 sovereign countries, also setting a world record of its own as the largest such reunion.

Benny, the only Indian at the event, said he initially declined the invitation as he never considered himself part of the travel community. "I travelled as a musician and to share my story, not as a tourist," he said.

At the event, Benny presented his collection of 16 passports, each marked with visas and immigration stamps from across the world. This prompted MTP to post a 31-second video of the same, which went viral within moments of being uploaded online — reintroducing Benny to millions for his travel achievement.

Benny visited 193 sovereign nations in 2010 alone and holds a record for travelling to 245 countries and territories, including Antarctica. According to Benny, a memorable experience of his was performing in North Korea, becoming the first international artiste to hold a concert on Pitcairn Island, besides performing for scientists in Antarctica.

He adds: "Travelling to Pitcairn Island was the toughest, as it is only connected by ship that comes to the nearest port once every three months; and getting a visa to Pakistan was the most challenging."

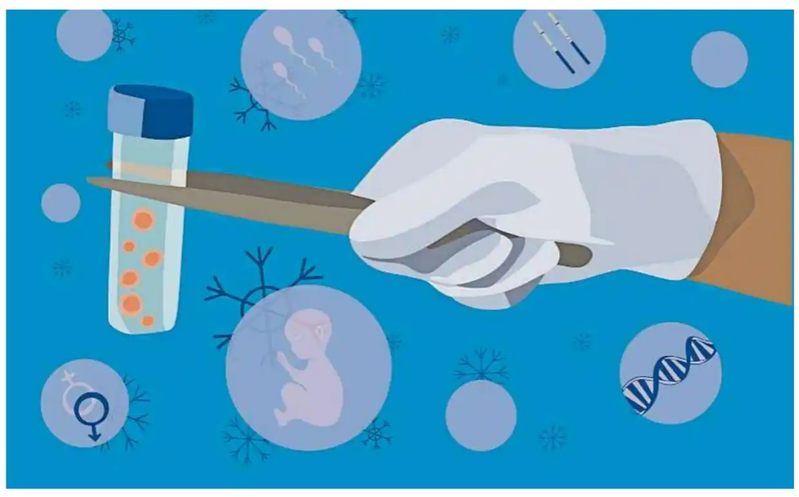
Today, he continues travelling as a performer and giving motivational talks, "though at a slower pace".

FARNAZ

Egg freezing, before "I do"

Fertility specialists say more women are opting to freeze their eggs as they delay marriage and prioritise careers

TINI SARA ANIEN
TEAM METROLIFE



Karnataka's declining fertility rate has been linked to later marriages, delayed childbirth and changing family aspirations. Now, city-based fertility specialists say those shifts are also evident in IVF and fertility clinics, where more unmarried women are choosing to freeze their eggs to extend their reproductive window while delaying marriage or motherhood.

At a Banashankari-based IVF centre, medical director Dr Vidya V Bhat says most women seeking elective egg freezing are between 27 and 40 years old. Nearly 80% are unmarried or do not have a partner, she adds, noting that they predominantly come from urban, educated backgrounds.

At a fertility and IVF chain, egg freezing has shifted dramatically over the past five years. Dr Pallavi Prasad, a fertility specialist with the chain, says that before 2020-21, most egg-freezing cases were referrals from oncologists for women undergoing chemotherapy or radiotherapy, while elective, or "social", egg freezing was rare. "Now, around 70-80% of the egg-freezing cases we see are social egg freezing. About half the women seeking the procedure have never been married, while the rest include those who are divorced, separated or in the midst of divorce proceedings," she says.

At another fertility and IVF chain, Dr Sharvari Mundhe, consultant-fertility and IVF specialist, says enquiries about egg freezing have risen steadily, driven by greater public awareness, social media conversations and employer-supported fertility benefits.

"Around 70% of our egg-freezing patients are unmarried," she says. Most are between 28 and 35 years old and work in the IT sector.

At a fertility and reproductive medicine chain, around 70% of women seeking elective egg freezing — aged between 27 and 40 — have never been married or do not have a long-term partner. Dr Meghana Nyapathi, cluster head-reproductive medicine, says, "While the proportion of unmarried women opting for egg freezing has remained largely unchanged over the past two years, the overall demand for the procedure has risen significantly as awareness has grown."

Families, particularly mothers, have also become noticeably more supportive of the decision. "Earlier, patients often came with friends to complete consent formalities. Now, parents are increasingly involved in consultations and treatment decisions," Dr Sharvari adds.

Seeking more time

Most doctors, including Dr Pallavi, say the motivations extend beyond career ambitions. "Many seek the procedure because they want more time to find the right life partner without feeling pressured by declining fertility. I've had patients ranging from a chartered accountant preparing to move abroad to a professional dancer approaching 40, both of whom chose egg freezing so they could postpone motherhood without closing the door on having biological children later," she says.

She adds that awareness has widened interest beyond working professionals. "In some cases, we're also seeing parents bring daughters in their mid 20s after tests reveal a diminished ovarian reserve. In such cases, egg freezing is viewed as a preventive measure," she says.

Despite growing awareness, Dr Sharvari cautions that many still overestimate what egg freezing can achieve. She says counselling focuses on explaining that preserving eggs does not guarantee a future pregnancy, as success depends on factors such as a woman's age at freezing, egg quality, embryo development and, later, sperm quality.

Another trend

Dr Vidya and Dr Meghana receive a lot of enquiries from Indian-origin women working abroad. "Many, who are particularly in the US and UK, when they come for a vacation, freeze their eggs here and return, because they know they may eventually come back to India," Dr Meghana adds.

FIND YOUR VIBE

Hot takes on Sundays

A new community is creating room for healthy disagreements

SUBHASHINI RAMASAMY
TEAM METROLIFE

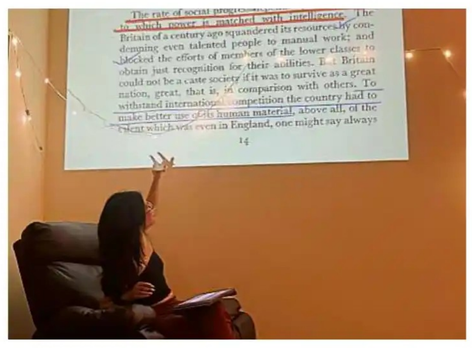
On a Sunday evening, a living room quickly fills up with 15 or 20 people, one of them set to present their take on a topic of political, societal, or historical relevance. That is the premise of Brews and Banter (BnB), a new community in the city where strangers defend their opinions, share lived experiences, and disagree politely.

The idea came from a four-hour conversation between co-founders Siddhant More and P Unnikrishnan, after the former suggested they start a podcast. "A podcast feels one-sided to me. One person speaks, the other listens," says Unnikrishnan. "We decided to create a space where people can come and discuss as equals, instead of one side holding all the power through information."

The duo also run Third Space, a political literacy club, with their friends Arya Thapa, Kahaan Doshi, Dhvani Pandey, and Sameeha Shaik. The six friends, all in their 20s, founded BnB. First, one person presents a hot 'take' on anything from meritocracy to capitalism for 40 to 45 minutes, followed by an hour-long discussion. The positive response from friends and mutuals after the initial sessions encouraged the group to open it up to the public. "Last week, we posted an introductory reel that blew up and garnered 150 registrations for our third session," says Siddhant. "We then filtered the applications to keep discussions intimate and meaningful."

Sessions are hosted in one of the six members' homes, rotating between Koramangala, HSR Layout, and Indiranagar. Registrations are accepted through a Google Form shared on BnB's Instagram page at the start of the week. The team screens applicants based on age, field of study or profession, and their response to a question about the upcoming week's topic to curate a diverse group. "We take voluntary contributions to cover basic costs like snacks," says Siddhant. Doors open at 6 pm every Sunday, and discussions wrap up by 9.30 pm. The fourth session, scheduled for July 5, will centre on feminism.

To register, visit @bnb.blr on Instagram.



A session in progress at one of BnB's gatherings.

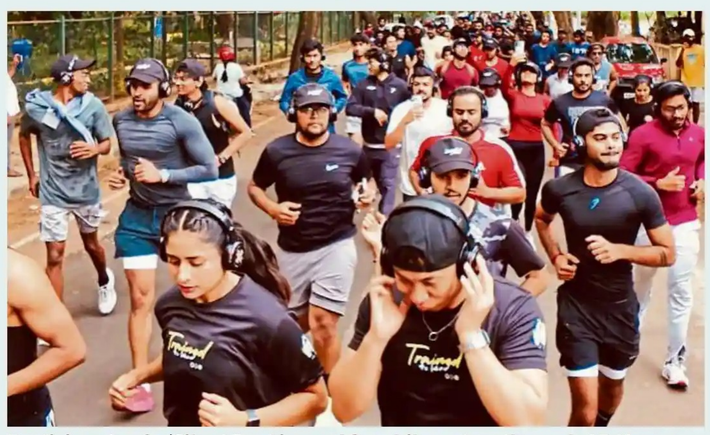
Running in the city, but with a plot twist

Fitness enthusiasts are finding creative ways to make every mile count

SHRADDHA A K
TEAM METROLIFE

At sunrise on any given weekend, Bengaluru's roads are no longer occupied solely by runners chasing personal bests. Now they are also dotted with groups wearing wireless headphones, singing karaoke after a run, hunting for clues across neighbourhoods, stopping for coffee, or even handing out meals to those in need. Running seems to be evolving from a fitness routine into a social ritual.

The trend gained fresh attention after Mile Run Club's 'Silent Run', where 150 participants jogged four kilometres through J P Nagar wearing wireless headphones synced to a DJ performing from a moving truck. The event, which sold out in seven hours, culminated in a silent rave inside a retail store.



Participants of a 'Silent Run' jogged four kilometres through J P Nagar wearing wireless headphones synced to a DJ.

"It was surprising to see three generations turn up together," says Gaurav Dobriyal, co-founder of Mile Run Club. "People came with their parents and even grandparents. The whole point is to make fitness fun, not something that feels exclusive." To celebrate the club completing a year, tickets were priced at Rs 12.

At Kammanahalli Run Club, runners have taken part in scavenger hunts, dog adoption runs, karaoke mornings and fitness challenges. One of its most memorable initiatives combined a morning jog with distributing food to around 100 underprivileged residents, while another saw participants collecting litter around the neighbourhood.

"We've tried to think beyond just running," says Raksh Thomas Neeliyara, co-founder of Kammanahalli Run Club. "The karaoke run was something we came up with ourselves, and the clean-up run remains one of the events I'm most proud of."

Others like Rhythm Jain, founder of Rove Run club, have hosted events to urge their runners to bring a friend. "In our 'bring a buddy' run, we had our runners show up with a partner in matching outfits; that was a great conversation starter." They will soon host a Mall Run, where 500 participants can run inside a mall, followed by a coffee rave.

For Shree Shetty, co-founder of Puduchella Run Club and a runner herself, the appeal lies in making every run feel less like a workout and more like an experience. Through her club, she has helped organise community runs that end with karaoke sessions, raves and themed social events. She keeps her running playful; running 23 km on her 23rd birthday, for instance.

"The biggest motivation is the company," they say, adding, "the social aspect has encouraged runners across generations, from teenagers looking for company to seasoned runners in their 50s and 60s, to keep showing up week after week."

For creator Poorav S, running has become a way of reclaiming the city itself. He runs between cafés, bars and restaurants simply because it makes familiar routines more enjoyable.

One of his most popular videos showed him running between pubs before meeting friends. Once, he ran nearly eight kilometres to join them for dinner, arriving just as they did by auto.

"Why not combine things you already enjoy?" he says. "You can run to a café, have breakfast, or run to meet friends and not feel guilty over calories."

Wildlife board approves increasing safari trips

BENGALURU, DHNS

The number of safari trips in Bandipur and Nagarahole tiger reserves will soon increase by 40% as the standing committee of the state wildlife board on Tuesday took into consideration the findings and recommendations of a first-of-its-kind report on the assessment of ecotourism carrying capacity of the two protected areas.

Safari in the two reserves were cancelled in November 2025 after farmers blamed increased commercial activity for the rise in incidents of conflicts with tigers. The government set up a technical committee to look into the matter. Prior to the shut down, the Forest Department cumulatively conducted 97 trips per day in Bandipur, Nagarahole, Veernahosahalli Gate and Nanachi. After the three-month shut down, safaris resumed on February 22 with the number of trips being reduced in the Nagarahole tiger reserve.

On Tuesday, the SBWL standing committee chaired by Chief Minister D K Shivakumar reviewed the report submitted by the technical committee. The Board decided to accept the recommendations of the committee repot. The report recommended cumulative 137 vehicle trips in the four areas, effectively increasing the number of trips from 97 prior to the controversy. The recommendation was based on the committee conclusion that safari trips had no correlation to incidents of conflict.

The conclusion was informed by a study of the density of prey and tigers in the eco tourism zones of the reserves, where safari is conducted, as well as the controlled area where such activities are not allowed.

"The available scientific evidence demonstrates that ecotourism activities (park excursion) are not resulting in tiger displacement, reduced tiger occupancy or increased movement of tigers into conflict-prone regions of the Tiger Reserves," the report said.

In fact, the report looked into scat analysis to understand the dietary ecology of tigers and concluded that the safari zone continues to support wild prey populations and hence may not be the reason for human-tiger conflicts in the fringe areas.

SRINGERI JAGADGURU VISITS VISHWA VIDYAPEETH ON THE OCCASION OF GURUKRUPA MAHOTSAVA

A sacred and historic moment, one that will be remembered and recorded in the history of Vishwa Vidyapeeth, was witnessed on 30 June 2026. His Holiness Jagadguru Sri Sri Vidhushekhara Bharati Sannidhanam of the Sringeri Sri Sharada Peetham visited Vishwa Vidyapeeth and blessed the students, teachers, parents, and devotees with his divine presence, guidance, and blessings. This special occasion was celebrated with great devotion under the title "Gurukrupa Mahotsava."

The institution welcomed His Holiness with traditional grandeur amidst Vedic chanting, Purna Kumbha honours, floral tributes, and a beautifully decorated campus reflecting the richness of India's spiritual heritage. The atmosphere resonated with devotion and reverence as students, parents, alumni, and devotees gathered to seek the blessings of the Jagadguru.

The programme showcased the unique educational vision of Vishwa Vidyapeeth through Vedic recitations, devotional presentations, and innovative academic and scientific exhibits by the students. His Holiness appreciated Vishwa Vidyapeeth's efforts in harmoniously integrating ancient Indian wisdom with contemporary education, thereby nurturing intellectually competent and culturally rooted global citizens.

A significant highlight of the event was the felicitation of students who have brought laurels to the institution through exceptional achievements in academics, sports, and various other fields. Receiving recognition and blessings directly from His Holiness was a rare honour and a deeply inspiring experience for the young achievers.

Addressing the gathering, the Jagadgurus delivered a profound message on the importance of values, discipline, service, patriotism, and Guru Bhakti in shaping future generations. He urged students to pursue excellence with humility, integrity, and a commitment to societal welfare.

The event also highlighted Vishwa Vidyapeeth's remarkable accomplishments at national and international levels and its unwavering commitment to holistic, value-based education. The divine blessings of His Holiness and the spirit of Gurukrupa infused the gathering with renewed purpose and inspiration. More than a ceremonial gathering, Gurukrupa Mahotsava was a profound confluence of spirituality, culture, and education. The sacred presence and blessings of His Holiness left an indelible impression on every heart, inspiring students to pursue knowledge with humility, purpose, and dedication.

The occasion stands as a shining milestone in the journey of Vishwa Vidyapeeth, reaffirming its commitment to nurturing future generations rooted in Indian values, enriched by wisdom, and empowered to contribute meaningfully to society and the nation.

Curated by DH Brandspot

BMIC Toll Rates (Effective 1 July 2026)

Sl. No.	Section	Length (km)	Car	Bus	Truck	LCV	MAV	Two-wheeler
1	Hosur Road to Bannerghatta Road	8.74	72	215	141	83	143	33
2	Bannerghatta Road to Kanakapura Road	6.79	53	171	108	55	110	17
3	Kanakapura Road to Clover Leaf Junction	4.36	39	105	66	44	61	11
4	Clover Leaf Junction to Mysore Road	3.88	36	94	55	44	61	11
5	Mysore Road to Magadi Road	9.55	77	226	154	94	149	33
6	Magadi Road to Tumkur Road	7.48	61	176	116	66	116	17
7	Link Road	8.10	83	220	149	88	165	25

From today, pay higher toll for NICE Rd, E-City flyover, Attibele highway

BENGALURU, DHNS: Starting July 1 (Wednesday), your commute through NICE Road, the Electronics City expressway and Hosur Road is set to become costlier.

In a public notice issued on Tuesday, Nandi Economic Corridor Enterprises Limited (NICE) said it was revising toll charges for the Peripheral Road and Link Road components of the Bangalore-Mysore Infrastructure Corridor (BMIC) project. This is an annual exercise as per the concession agreement signed with the state government on September 4, 2000, it added.

The Peripheral Road, Bengaluru's semi-ring road running from Tumakuru Road to Hosur Road, spans 40.8 km while the Link Road is 8.1 km long.

Two-wheelers and cars will have to pay at least 10% more based on the stretch and distance, with the increase rounded off to the next number.

The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), which operates bus services through NICE Road connecting Banashankari, Tavarekere, Electronics City and other areas, is likely to pass on the additional cost to passengers.

Fee Rate for use of Elevated Section (Electronic City Toll Plaza) Effective: 1 July 2026 - 30 June 2027

Sl. No.	Category of Vehicle	Single Journey	Multiple Journey	Monthly Pass
1	Two Wheeler	25	40	785
2	Car, Jeep and Van	65	100	1960
3	LCV/Mini Bus	90	135	2745
4	Bus and Truck	185	275	5495
5	MAV	365	550	10985

E-City flyover

Similarly, Bangalore Elevated Tollway Pvt Ltd will increase toll charges for the 9.98-km expressway linking Silk Board Junction to Electronics City as well as the 24.36-km at-grade National Highway 44 from Silk Board Junction till the Karnataka-Tamil Nadu border. The charges have been revised as per the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) as on March 31, 2026, and will remain in force till June 30, 2027, it stated.

The elevated expressway is Bengaluru's longest, continuous flyover with four lanes.

On the flyover, car/jeep/van drivers pay Rs 100 (multiple journeys in a day) and Rs 1,960 (monthly pass), up from Rs 95 and Rs 1,885, respectively.

There is no change in single-journey charges. Two-wheeler riders pay Rs 785 for the monthly pass, up from Rs 755. There is no change in single- or multiple-journey toll charges.

At the Attibele toll plaza, cars/jeeps/vans will pay Rs 60 (multiple journeys), compared to Rs 55.

BETPL is the special purpose vehicle that maintains the 24.365-km section of NH-44. Mumbai-based Global Infrastructure Partners is the concessionaire.

State wildlife board nod for Mekedatu dam DPR studies

BENGALURU, DHNS: The standing committee of the State Board of Wildlife (SBWL) on Tuesday approved the proposal by the Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Limited (CNNL) to conduct survey, geotechnical investigation and tree enumeration for Mekedatu project inside the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary.

As per the proposal by CNNL chief engineer, the project involves construction of a balancing reservoir to store 67.16 tmcft of water along with a bridge, an underground power house to generate 400 MW and construction of a jackwell-cum-pump house to lift 4.75 tmcft of drinking water to Bengaluru.

The investigation is done by drilling 20 boreholes of 6-inch diameter each to a depth of 30 meters. The proposal includes seismic studies in Muggur wildlife range.

The board headed by Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, who holds the portfolio of the forest, ecology and environment, approved the proposal with a condition that only existing roads should be used for the survey and investigation works.

Senior officials said the proposal will now be sent to the National Board of Wildlife for further clearance.

"Since this is a work inside a protected area, clearance from the national board is mandatory," he said, adding that the proposed studies will help CNNL to prepare the detailed project report (DPR).

As per the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) award, it was indicated that only 33 % of Bengaluru city falls under the Cauvery Basin.

"However, due to expansion of Bangalore under the name Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike and further as Bengaluru Metropolitan Area and Bengaluru Metropolitan Regional Development Authority, additional areas in the Cauvery basin have been amalgamated. (The) present supply is not sufficient to cater to this increased drinking water requirement," the CNNL said.

The project requires about 12,600 acres of forest. On June 19, *DH* had reported about the project gaining pace after Shivakumar became the chief minister. The revenue department had directed deputy commissioners to look for equal extent of revenue land to provide as compensation to the forest department.

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY
MATERIAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
('e'-TENDER NOTICE FOR THE SUPPLY OF STORES, NO. EPS/16/2026)

PCMM/WCR on behalf of the President of India invites the following advertised tenders through E-procurement System. Manual/postal offers shall not be entertained. Tenders can be accessed under the link **https://ireps.gov.in** for details and for submission of Tender.

Sr.No.	Tender No.	Short Description	Tendered Qty
1	62261026	Rain coat with cap / hood and separate Water proof trouser	19039 Nos.
2	40262064A	Brushless DC (BLDC) Railway Carriage Fan Complete with Blade and Gaurd	2118 Nos.
3	8125 WCRTP-23	HVN-66 INSULATING LINER FOR USE WITH WIDER PSC SLEEPER	3500000 Nos.
4	50261004	Thermo shrink Jointing kit for jointing Underground 0.9 mm dia. conductor 4/6 Quad cable	3186 Nos.
5	62261123	ECO Friendly Disposable Napkins cotton rich spunlace nonwoven	14418322 Nos.

Due Date for Sr. no.1: **01.07.2026,** Sr. no. 2: **06.07.2026,** Sr. no. 3: **24.07.2026,** Sr. no. 4: **30.07.2026,** Sr. no. 5: **13.08.2026.** For tenders with estimated value below ₹ 50 Lakh, interested firms are advised to visit www.ireps.gov.in

(SD.)
For Principal Chief Material Manager,
WCR, Jabalpur

स्वच्छ भारत अभियान एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

झारखण्ड सरकार
क्षेत्र सर्वेक्षण प्रमण्डल, अग्रिम योजना, पथ निर्माण विभाग, दुमका

अति अल्पकालीन ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट सूचना (1st Call)
ई–निविदा प्रसंग सं0:–RCD/FSD/AP/DUM/01/2026-27
दिनांक:–29.06.2026

1.	कार्य का नाम	Consultancy services for preparation of viability and financial option analysis/Feasibility Study of following Roads in PPP/HAM/BOT Mode. 1.Bagodar-Barmasia-KhorimahuaRoad (Tentative Length= 60 Km) 2. Giridih-Jamua-Domchach-KodermaRoad (Tentative Length= 98 Km) 3. Hazaribagh-Barkagaon-Tandwa-Khalari-Bijupara Road (Tentative Length= 108 Km) 4.Jamtara- Dumka Road (Tentative Length= 75 Km)
2.	अनुमानित लंबाई	341.00कि०मी०
3.	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	30 दिन
4.	वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशित होने की तिथि एवं समय	01.07.2026,12.00 बजे अपराह्न
5.	निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	08.07.2026, 04.00 बजे अपराह्न तक
6.	निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	09.07.2026, 12.30 बजे अपराह्न
7.	निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले का नाम एवं पता	कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, क्षेत्र सर्वेक्षण प्रमण्डल अग्रिम योजना, पथ निर्माण विभाग, दुमका।
8.	प्रोक्योरमेंट पदाधिकारी का संपर्क नं0	8292901787
9.	ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट सेल का हेल्पलाईन नं0	0651–2401010

अतिरिक्त जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट पर देखें :–http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
क्षेत्र सर्वेक्षण प्रमण्डल, अग्रिम योजना,
पथ निर्माण विभाग, दुमका।

PR.NO.383568 Road(26-27):D

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

For and on behalf of President of India, Assistant Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD, South Eastern Railway, Adra invites e-tender for the following works: **E-Tender Notice No.: TRD-ADA-e-Tender-08-2026, dated: 25.06.2026. Description of the work:** Replacement of less implanted/leaning OHE mast by new mast. **Approx Tender Value:** ₹ 8,41,05,500.73. The closing date and time of e-tender-08-2026 for works above is on **17.07.2026 at 15.00 hrs.** and its opening of tender will be done on **17.07.2026 after 15.00 hrs.** Details of above e-tender may please be seen at website **www.ireps.gov.in.** **(PR-397)**

EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: 222-S/1/W-II, Date: 26.06.2026. Following e-Tender (Two Packet System) is invited online by Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, 2nd floor, Control Building, DRM Building, Kaizer Street, Sealdah, Kolkata-700014 for the following work: **Tender No.: TN-113-26-27. Name of the work** : Flash butt welding of 60Kg./52 Kg. [90UTS/72 UTS, R-260] [New/ SH/ SR/SWR/LWR] rail at site with contractors mobile flash butt welding plant in the jurisdiction of Divisional Engineer (HQ)/ Sealdah. **Tender Value:** Rs. 2,73,58,503.71, **EMD:** Rs. 5,47,200/- **Completion period for the work:** 12 (Twelve) months. **Date and time of closing of tender:** 24.07.2026 at 15.00 hrs. **Date and time of opening of tender:** 24.07.2026 at 15.30 hrs. Tender document and other details will be available at website **www.ireps.gov.in** The bidding for the tender is to be submitted through e-tendering on above website. Manual offers will be summarily rejected. As per Indian Railway Standard General Conditions of Contract 2022, cost of e-Tender Form is NIL.

SDAH-101/2026-27

Tender Notices are also available at Website www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in

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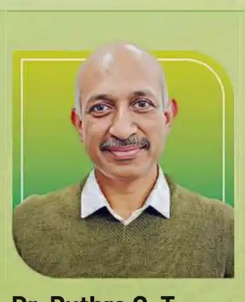
Dr. Puthra G. T.
Director,
Department of Agriculture,
Karnataka

Dr. M. S. Sheshshayee
Professor and Emeritus Professor,
University of Agricultural Sciences,
Bangalore

Rashmit Singh Sukhmani
Founder and Chief Technology Officer SatSure

Follow us on:

PUBLIC NOTICE

IS HEREBY GIVEN on behalf of our clients, Mr. Amit Shidagouda Patil and Mrs. Bhagyashri Badiger (W/o: Mr. Amit Shidagouda Patil), that they intend to purchase the immovable residential property described in the Schedule hereunder from its absolute owner, Mr. Pawan Kumar Agrawal (S/o Mr. Bishwanath Agrawal). The seller acquired absolute ownership of the said property via a Registered Sale Deed bearing Document No. BNS-118192/2020-21.

The property is to be conveyed free from all encumbrances, liens, mortgages, charges, attachments, or ancestral/succession claims of any nature whatsoever. Any person, legal heir, or financial institution having any claim, right, title, interest, or objection over the Schedule Property is hereby required to make the same known in writing with supporting documentary evidence to the undersigned advocate within 14 days from the date of this publication. If no valid objections are received within the stipulated time, the title shall be deemed clear and marketable, and any subsequent claims shall be considered waived and legally invalid.

SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY

Residential Apartment bearing Unit No. A4-47043, Fourth Floor, Wing-47, in the residential complex known as "SOBHA DREAM ACRES" (Palm Springs Phase 11), located at Balagere Village, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, identified under BBMP PID No. 2015099422, along with its proportionate Undivided Share (UDS) in the land.

Bengaluru Date: 30-06-2026

Sd/-Vidyarani S. Patil, Advocate,
Ambari Galli, Gadhinglaj Tq. Gadhinglaj,
Dist. Kolhapur Mobile: 8275908150

3 booked for shooting video on tricky rock at Jog Falls

SIDDAPURA, DHNS: A case has been registered against three youngsters who stood atop a perilously poised rock at Jog Falls to record a video. A computerised complaint has been registered at the local police station. The three youngsters from Theerthahalli taluk – Mohan Shubakar Gowda, Bharath Gowda and Madan Gowda – went to the rock resting atop the Raja waterfall, and shot a video, which they uploaded on social media.

VTU results in record 5 minutes after exams

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) has created history again by announcing results just five minutes after the exams were concluded. Earlier, the results were announced in ten minutes.

With this, VTU has broken all its previous records in the announcement of results.

A total of 60,856 students appeared for the BE and BTech sixth semester exams. The exam concluded at 5:30 pm on Tuesday and the results were announced at 5:35 pm.

Compared to previous years, the entire evaluation process was completed 21 days early. VTU Vice-Chancellor S Vidyashankar said, "Students wait eagerly for their results. Hence, we decided to announce as quickly as possible."

"With proper preparation, we released the results immediately. Earlier, final-year results were announced within 10 minutes. I congratulate the VTU administration staff, examination section staff, and affiliated college staff who made this possible," he said.

Registrar (Evaluation) U J Ujwal said: "Adoption of digital evaluation helped us to announce results this quickly."

HC imposes Rs 1L cost on PSI for suppressing facts

Cop had allegedly kicked an advocate inside a police station

AMBARISH B
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka High Court has imposed an exemplary cost of Rs 1 lakh on a woman Police Sub-Inspector from Bengaluru for suppressing a judicial order.

"The jurisdiction of this court is not meant to be invoked by those who selectively disclose facts convenient to their cause while withholding facts destructive to their case. The stream of justice, to borrow the oft-quoted expression, must remain pure and unsullied; any attempt to pollute it by suppression, distortion, or calculated concealment cannot receive judicial imprimatur," Justice M Nagaprasanna said while dismissing the petition filed by PSI Padmavathi, posted at the Madiwala traffic police station.

The officer petitioned the High Court challenging the FIR registered against her for kicking a woman advocate at the police station. The advocate, Nabonitha Sen, was at the police station in connection with a road rage incident that occurred on the night of February 23, 2025. Agitated over the delay in taking the complaint, the advocate scattered the papers on the table. At this stage, PSI Padmavathi repeatedly kicked the advocate, and a criminal case was registered for preventing the public servant from performing the duties.

Challenging this FIR, the advocate placed CCTV camera footage from the police station, which depicted both her act of disorderly conduct as well as the unwarranted use of force by the PSI. In that proceeding, on April 17, 2026, the high court directed that a criminal case be registered against the PSI.

The PSI challenged the FIR, and a vacation bench of the high court stayed the investigation. When the matter came up for further hearing, Justice Nagaprasanna noted that the PSI had not disclosed that the case was registered against her pursuant to the orders of the high court.

"The conduct of the petitioner, therefore, does not merely reflect omission; it borders on abuse of jurisdiction. The extraordinary remedy under Section 528 of the BNS or Article 226 of the Constitution is a discretionary remedy, and discretion of the court can never be invoked by one whose hands are tainted by suppression. They who seek equity must come with clean hands; a litigant who approaches with concealed hands cannot seek the court's indulgence," the court said, while directing the investigation to continue against the PSI and to place the result of investigation prior to placing it before the court concerned.

Govt to hire engg grads to teach comp science, AI

BENGALURU, DHNS: There's a new employment avenue for engineers in the state – teaching. With the state government introducing lessons on Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence at government schools, the Department of School Education and Literacy is looking to hire those with an engineering degree to teach these two subjects.

In fact, the Department of School Education and Literacy has even issued a gazette notification on the amendments made to the prescribed qualifications for teachers. Under the revised terms, those with BE, BTech or BSc in Computer Science, or those with a BCA or Bachelor of Information Technology are eligible to apply for jobs, and they will be hired under the Graduate Teachers category.

However, those applying for the job must have mandatorily studied Kannada either as a first or second language in SSLC and PU. Additionally, those recruited for the job must obtain a BEd degree from an institution recognised by the National Council for Teachers' Education within five years of being appointed. They must also clear the Teachers Eligibility Test (TET) within five years.

The department is looking to recruit more than 2,500 Computer Science teachers for government schools. Incidentally, the department had approved the decision allowing engineering graduates to appear for TET so they could teach Mathematics and Science at government schools.

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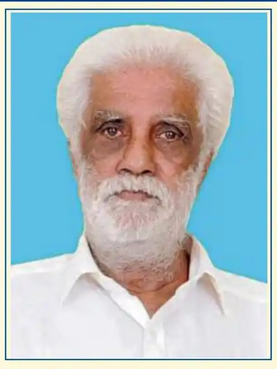
SAD DEMISE

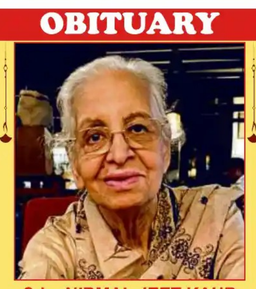
K T Shiva Prasad
(1947 - 2026)
It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of K.T. Shivaprasad on 30.06.2026.
He will be remembered with love and gratitude for the life he lived, the values he upheld, and the lives he touched.
Bereaved family, Relatives and friends.

BIRTH ANNIVERSARY



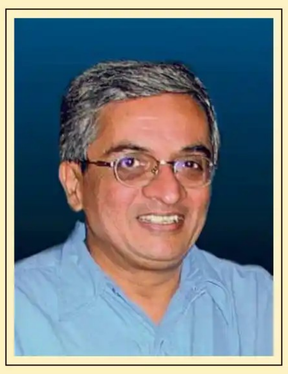
K. SREENIVASAN NAIR
Retd. Officer, ITI Limited
Remembering you as always with Love - SREE Family

OBITUARY



Sdn. NIRMAL JEET KAUR
W/o Late Tejinder Singh
22-10-1943 - 30-06-2026
Cremation:
Wednesday 1-7-2026 at 2:00 pm
Electrical Crematorium Kalapalli
Bhog and Ardas Saturday 4-7-2026
12:00 noon to 1:30 pm.
Gurudwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha Ulsoor
Deeply Mourned by:
Ramandeep Singh Son,
Nini & Jasjit, Daughter & Son-in-law
Jaswinder Birgi Son-in-law
& Family Ph: 9880955455

कर्मण्यकर्म यः पश्येदकर्मणि च कर्म यः।
स बुद्धिमान्मनुष्येषु स युक्तः कृत्स्नकर्मकृत्।।



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GE KAY Convent High School Basaveshwaranagar Bangalore-79 Requires Nursery/ Primary Hindi/ Sciences / Maths, High School Teachers Immediately Contact Principal: 9880800758

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Website: www.set.edu.in E-mail: set.edu.in@gmail.com
Application for the post of
Assistant Professor
for MCA Program at Seshadripuram College, Bengaluru
Eligibility: B.E. / B.Tech / B.S. and M.E. / M.Tech. / M.S. or Integrated M.Tech in relevant branch with First Class or equivalent in any one of the degree.
Or
B.E. / B.Tech and MCA with First Class or equivalent in any one of the two degrees.
Or
Graduation of three years' duration with Mathematics as a compulsory subject and MCA with First Class or equivalent with 2 years of relevant experience after acquiring degree of MCA.
• Ph.D. desirable, *NET / KSET compulsory
*Salary as per AICTE Norms
Assistant Professor of Computer Science
for Degree Colleges at Bengaluru
Eligibility: Master's Degree in the relevant subject with at least 55% marks in the aggregate and at least two years teaching experience.
Walk-in-Interview
on Monday, the 6th July 2026 @ 10.00 a. m.
Venue: Seshadripuram Educational Trust Office, 27, Nagappa Street, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru – 560 020.
Eligible candidates should bring handwritten application along with resume, photos & copies of testimonials at the time of Interview.
N. R. Pandith Aradhya, President
Dr. Wooday P. Krishna, Honorary General Secretary

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Phone No: 080-23211232, Mobile: 9741940511/9845257643
PVPWT/37/2026-27 Date: 01.07.2026
PVP Welfare Trust invites eligible candidates for a walk-in interview for the following posts at various Schools of the trust. The candidates may attend the walk-in-interview on 07.07.2026 at 10.00 AM in the Board Room, PVPWT, Dr. AIT Campus, Outer Ring Road, Mallathahalli, Bengaluru-560056 Please submit the written application on white paper along with xerox copies of certificates and the original documents for verification.
Appointment for Unaided Posts
1. P.V.P. High School English Medium, Mallathahalli. Computer Science Teacher-01 Post, Social Science Teacher - 01 Post
2. P.V.P. High School Kannada Medium, Mallathahalli Hindi Teacher - 01 Post, Science Teacher (CBZ)- 01 Post
3. P.V.P. Primary School, English Medium, Rajajinagar Science Teacher- 01 Post
4. P.V.P. Primary School, Kannada Medium, Mallathahalli Science Teacher- 01 Post
Sd/-
Secretary, PVP Welfare Trust

HOLY ANGEL'S High School,Hampinagar, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru-560104. Phone: 23404465/23202042 holyangels.highschoolrpclayout@gmail.com Requires Experienced Trained Teachers for Academic year 2026-27 for Nursery, English & Social-Science for Primary & Computer Teacher for High-School. STATE & ICSE. Qualification: B.A./B.Sc., B.Ed., M.A./M.Sc, M.Ed. Only English Medium Candidates need to apply.

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ACHARYA SRI RAKUM SCHOOL
English Medium
Margondanahalli, Devanahalli, Bangalore.
Montessori / NTT, Lady Teachers. ₹ 25,000.
Primary English Medium Teachers (D.Ed./ TCH) ₹ 30,000.
English & Social Science Teachers (B.Ed.) ₹ 35,000
with Free Food & Accommodation
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Marketing & Sales
REQUIRED SALES Executive with 1 year Experience. Two-wheeler required. Qualification: 2nd PUC. Age: 30- 50 years; must be fluent in English. Package: Rs 25,000 to Rs 30,000. Office Location: Near R.V Eng College, Mysore Road. Contact: 7829944556

PUBLIC NOTICE
To Place your Classified Ads Contact
9731810277

General
WANTED ACCOUNTANT with 2-5 years experience (2) ENGINEERS- B.E/ Diploma (Mechanical) Experience/ Freshers. Walk-in Interview 'VINUMAC' #205. Peenya 3rd phase, Bangalore-58 Ph: 7829814706 080-28391959, 28394512 admin@vinumac.com

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WANTED TRANSFORMER WINDER: Must have 5+ years of experience in both primary and secondary (HV/ LV) winding for 3-phase industrial transformers (1 kVA to 250 kVA). Voltage ranges from 60V upto 430V. Used in CNC, UPS, and Control Panels. Call/ Apply: ieeblr@sardacapacitors.com; 9611510706/ 8951399050

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HIRING MALE CANDIDATES BELOW 30 Years, for Pvt Ltd Co. Qualification: 10th or PUC Pass, In Around Rajajinagar Contact: 9902891620/ 9845579620

Wanted
WANTED PLUMBER and Carpentors with ITI Certificate near Manipal Centre. Contact: No. 8019633658.
WANTED IMMEDIATELY Diploma/BE Civil Engg. Fresher/Experienced candidate for reputed Landscape Company.Candidate in and around E-City preferable.Contact : 9243192930

PERSONAL

Congratulations

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Philomena D'souza, Spouse of No. 6274303 Ex HAV Late G. Richard D'souza, residing at No. 210, 2A Cross, HRBR Layout 3rd Block, Bengaluru-560084, was born on 24/07/1944. My name has been changed from Philomena D'Souza to Philomena Dsouza and my date of birth was erroneously printed as 01/01/1944 in my Aadhar card which is now changed to 24/07/1944. I have sworn before the XXXVIII Addl. Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bengaluru and Notary G. Dayananda. Henceforth, I shall be known and identified as Philomena Dsouza with D.O.B as 24/07/1944 for all purposes, records, documents and transactions.

CHANGE OF NAME
I hitherto known as NOOR AHMED GAFFAR SHARIFF alias GAFFAR SHARIFF N A alias N A GAFFAR SHARIFF alias GAFFARSHARIFF N A S/o NOOR AHAMED SHARIFF, residing at #9, 9TH MAIN, SHAMANNA GARDEN, BANGALORE SOUTH, DIST: BANGALORE, KARNATAKA - 560026, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as GAFFAR SHARIFF N A, vide affidavit dated 30/06/2026 before SENIOR SHERISTEDAR J.M.F.C. H V MANJUNATH.

HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS
40 Karnataka Battalion NCC

BSUO. MAHESHWAR V S
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Wishing you continued success and many more achievements in the years ahead.
With Best Compliments
ANOS, PI Staff & Fellow NCC Cadets
40 Karnataka Battalion NCC

Change of Name
I, ROOPA SHETTI, Residing at #C4, 6th Main, 4th Cross Havanor Layout Nagasandra Post Bengaluru-73 have changed my name as ROOPA KIRAN SHETTI, vide affidavit dated 29/06/2026 before Notary V.Anjanappa, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, FAIZ ALAM ALIAS ARSHAD, residing at No.6, Haines Road, 2nd Cross, Wesely Tamil Church, Shivajinagar, Bengaluru-560051, have changed my name to FAIZ ALAM ARSHAD vide affidavit dated 08-06-2026 before notary A Idinabba, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called FAIZ ALAM ARSHAD only

CORRECTION OF NAME I, ALOK KUMAR GUPTA, residing at Bengaluru, do hereby declare that my name has been erroneously captured as ALOK GUPTA instead of ALOK KUMAR GUPTA in the ICSE (Class X, 2026) records of my daughter VEDANSHI GUPTA, student of The Valley School, Bengaluru. Both names refer to one and the same person. The correct name is ALOK KUMAR GUPTA, which shall be treated as correct for all future purposes.

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Class 9 student of Nadgir English School, Madavara
For Winning the
GOLD MEDAL
in the 49-52 kg weight category
5th SUB JUNIOR NATIONAL BOXING CHAMPIONSHIP 2026
lovely Professional University, jalandhar, punjab
22nd June to 30th June 2026

BEST BOXER
A proud moment for Karnataka boxing as Nayana Yahvi S, a Class 9 student of Nadgir English School, Madavara, has achieved a remarkable feat by winning the Gold Medal in the 49–52 kg weight category at the 5th Sub Junior National Boxing Championship 2026 held at Lovely Professional University, Jalandhar, Punjab, from 22nd June to 30th June 2026.
Her outstanding performance earned her not only the Gold Medal but also the prestigious honour of being awarded Best Boxer – Female Category at the championship.

Nayana's success has been shaped under the guidance and support of
Sri Sai Satish, General Secretary, Karnataka Amateur Boxing, Association (KABA)
Captain Dhanasanjayan (International Boxer)
Captain Appacha Chandrashekar, Chief Coach
Whose valuable coaching and constant encouragement played a vital role in her journey.

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Ph: 9844165272 / 9036552207
Residence : Gurukrupa Nilaya,No. 24, 1st Cross, KEB Office Road, Next to City Super Market, Kullappa Circle, Kammanahalli, Bangalore-560084.
Timings: 10 am to 1 pm & 3 pm to 8 pm

PUBLIC NOTICE
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TENDER NOTIFICATION
Sealed tenders are invited from reputed Manufacturers / Authorised distributors for the supply of Factory Integrated i7/U7 Desktop Computers (Business Model) for
VIVEKANANDA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Gudimavu, Kumbalgodu, Bengaluru-560074.
Mob:76250 13637 | 95139 53482 Email: vkitprincipal@gmail.com

Sl No	Name of the work	Estimated Cost Rs.	EMD (in Rs.)	Cost of Tender Rs
1	Supply of Dell / HP Dekstop Computers	1.25 Cr.	2,00,000/-	2000/-

E.M.D by way of DD payable in favor of Secretary, Janatha Education Society, Bangalore.
Tender documents will be issued from 01/07/2026 to 06/07/2026 during office hours on all working days (09:30 am to 04:00 p.m.) at JES office, Rajajinagar. The completed tenders will be received up to 01:00 p.m. on 10/07/2026 and will be opened on the same day at 02:30 p.m.
The Management reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.
Sri H.C Balakrishna, Hon.President
Sri Appareddy Harish, Hon.Secretary

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Sriki meticulously laundered stolen Bitcoins, Nalapad bros among beneficiaries: Court

ED spells out 'explosive' details in cryptocurrency scam

PRAJWAL D'SOUZA
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bitcoins allegedly stolen in 2017 from Unocoin crypto exchange were meticulously laundered and used by prime accused Srikrishna Ramesh alias Sriki, his associates Sunish Hegde, Congress youth leader Mohammed Haris Nalapad, his brother and others, according to a recent Bengaluru court order.

The findings became public record on June 25 when the Principal City Civil and Sessions Court (CCH-1) denied regular bail to Hegde and anticipatory bail to co-accused Prasidh Shetty. The court attributed the findings to the Special Investigation Team (SIT) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED). *DH* has reviewed both orders.

Sriki allegedly stole over 60 Bitcoins, worth Rs 33.69 crore at the current market rate.

"Srikrishna had hacked the wallets and stolen the Bitcoins, which were subsequently sold through crypto traders, including Robin Khandelwal and Sumit Agarwal. The stolen Bitcoins (proceeds of crime) were disposed of through various cryptocurrency trading platforms," the court observed.

The court further noted that sale proceeds were "routed and layered through multiple bank accounts and were utilised for the personal expenses of Srikrishna and his associates, namely Omar Farook Nalapad, Mohammed Haris Nalapad, Aqeeb Khan, Sunish Hegde and Sujay Raj".

Omar is the brother of Mohammed Nalapad, a former president of the Karnataka Pradesh Youth Congress Committee (KPYCC).

The court further observed that an investigation under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, "found bank account statements evidencing the routing of proceeds of crime and payments made towards hotels, casinos and other expenditures were obtained".

Secret locations

Objecting to the bail application, the ED, represented by Senior Standing Counsel and Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) Madhu N Rao, told the court that to make unlawful gains, the accused and his associates conspired to hack the GG Poker gaming app and "operated from different secret locations to avoid detection and leakage of information while continuing their criminal activities".

Investigations also revealed that Hegde made contradictory statements regarding crypto transactions. "Digital evidence recovered from his mobile device revealed cryptocurrency wallet activity involving substantial transactions. Subsequent investigation of his Binance account disclosed transactions aggregating approximately 3,52,000 USDT," the ED alleged.

Its current market value is Rs 3.32 crore.

Noting that criminal activities are still ongoing, the ED said it was investigating the tracing, quantification and layering of proceeds of crime.

Foreign accounts

While Shetty claimed he was just a businessman with no technical expertise relating to hacking or cyber intrusion, the ED disputed this.

Citing investigations, the ED alleged that despite denying any involvement in cryptocurrency transactions, he maintained a cryptocurrency trading account outside India and undertook substantial Virtual Digital Asset (VDA) transactions.

"Mere appearance before the investigating officer cannot be equated with complete and truthful cooperation," the court observed, denying bail.

Gruha Jyothi: Escoms begin door-to-door visit from today

BENGALURU, DHNS: Starting Wednesday, the energy department will start verifying the authenticity of Gruha Jyothi beneficiaries. Escom staff will conduct door-to-door verification.

"Meter readers and Escom staff will visit consumers' homes to check records and collect beneficiary information. This process will be completed on-site using a mobile application and a declaration form," the department said in a statement.

Citizens will have to provide the following documents during verification: Aadhaar (for verification only), a passport-sized photo of the beneficiary, voter ID, PAN, tenancy or rental agreements (wherever applicable), ration card and caste certificate.

The department said door-to-door verification was the only way to ensure the scheme was not misused and urged citizens to cooperate with Escom staff when they come for verification.

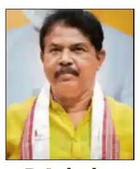
The Gruha Jyothi scheme, launched in July 2023, provides free power supply to households that consume less than 200 units of power per month.

Chief Minister D K Shivakumar recently stated that many commercial establishments were taking advantage of the scheme and called for a reverification of the beneficiaries.

The department maintained that the drive is only to verify the beneficiaries and that the scheme will continue as announced earlier.

Govt not appointing booth level officers in many places: Ashoka

BENGALURU, DHNS: Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka on Tuesday accused the Congress government of creating obstacles to the appointment of Booth Level Officers (BLOs).


R Ashoka

Addressing a press conference, he said: "By not appointing officers in many places they are ensuring that SIR does not take place. The Congress government has not properly appointed BLOs. Instead of the required 30 BLOs, only about 10 are visible. Officers are complaining that the government has not provided TA/DA and has not granted permission to attend."

Ashoka alleged that "non-officials" and Congress leaders had been appointed as BLOs at 20 places in Jayanagar.

"In Chamarajpet, when going door-to-door, they have shown photos of Congress MLA Zameer Ahmed Khan. BLOs should not display any party symbols," said Ashoka.

Govt not in favour of privatisation of power supply: George

SHIVAMOGGA, DHNS: Energy Minister K J George said that the state government is not in favour of privatisation of the power sector.

Speaking to media persons here on Tuesday, he said the BJP-led government at the Centre had brought in a law for the privatisation of the power sector in 2003.

K J George

"Now, they (BJP leaders) are opposing it. But I don't want to politicise the issue. All five electricity supply companies have already objected to giving the management responsibility to the Tata company. In this matter, the cabinet, headed by Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, will take an appropriate decision soon," he said.

Avenues

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REQUIRED

No. 569/2026-27 30.06.2026

Applications are invited for the posts of **Associate Professors, Assistant Professors and Assistant Instructors** in the following subjects for Undergraduate / Postgraduate Departments.

Sl. No.	Subject	Sl. No.	Subject
1.	AI / ML	4.	Food Processing & Engineering
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3.	Computer Application (MCA)	6.	Animation and Multimedia

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Advertisement No.: CRPD/SCO/2026-27/10 (Contractual position)

Name of Post	Number of Vacancy	Max Age (Cut off 31.05.2026)
Defence Banking Advisor (Navy)	1	62 years
Advisor (Central Armed Police Force)	1	
Circle Defence Banking Advisor (CDBA)-(Kolkata, Lucknow, Pune)	3	60 years

For eligibility criteria (age, experience, job profile etc.), vacancy details, requisite fees, other details and for online submission of application as well as online payment of application fees log on to Bank's website **https://sbi.bank.in/web/careers/current-openings**. Refer detailed advertisement to ensure eligibility and other details before applying and remitting fees. For any query, please write to us through link **"CONTACT US" → "Post Your Query"** which is available on Bank's official website (**https://sbi.bank.in/web/careers/post-your-query**)

- **DATE FOR FILING ONLINE APPLICATION & PAYMENT OF FEES: FROM 18.06.2026 to 08.07.2026.**

Place: Mumbai
Date: 18.06.2026

General Manager (RP & PM)

DAVANGERE UNIVERSITY

University Secretariat, Shivagangothri, Davanagere–577007. Karnataka
Ph No: 08192-208029/ Fax: 08192-208008
No:DU-DVG/Academic Section/167/2026-27/1501 Dated: 30.06.2026

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION

Sub: Applications are invited for Post-Graduate,P.G. Diploma, Diploma, and Certificate Programs for the Academic Year 2026-27
Ref: 1. All the Deans and Chairpersons of the Post - Graduation Departments Meeting Resolution dated:08.06.2026 and 15.06.2026.
2. All the Deans of Faculty Meeting Resolution dated:20.06.2026
3. Approval of the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor dated:29.06.2026

Applications are invited in OFFLINE mode for admission to various Post-Graduate, P.G. Diploma, Diploma, and Certificate Programs offered by Davangere University. These programs are available at: Shivagangothri Main Campus, Davangere, Post-Graduate Centre, Jnanagangothri Campus, G.R Halli, Chitradurga, Constituent Colleges, Autonomous College, and Affiliated Colleges. The Eligible candidates seeking admission to these programs should carefully review the contents of this notification and the Prospectus available at www.davangereuniversity.ac.in.

I. POST-GRADUATE DEPARTMENTS OF STUDIES, SHIVAGANGOTHRI, DAVANGERE.

Sl. No.	Faculty	Programs Offered
1	Arts	**M.A. in** Kannada, English and Urdu. **M.A. in** Economics, History & Archaeology, Journalism & Mass Communication, Political Science, Social Work (MSW), and Sociology. **Master of Visual Arts. in** Applied Art, and Painting.
2	Commerce and Management	**M.Com.** Master of Business Administration (Admission through KEA-PGCET)
3	Education	M.Ed., and M.P.Ed.
4	Science and Technology	**M.Sc. in** Criminology and Forensic Science, Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Botany, Chemistry, Computer Science, Environmental Science, Food Technology, Mathematics, Microbiology, Physics, Yogic Science, and Zoology.
		Master of Computer Applications(Admission through KEA-PGCET)
5	P.G. Diploma/ Diploma/ Certificate Programs	1. P.G. Diploma in Cyber Security (DoS in Criminology and Forensic Science) 2. P.G. Diploma in Financial Services (DoS in Commerce) 3. P.G. Diploma in Data Analysis (DoS in Economics) 4. P.G. Diploma in Food Processing, Safety and Quality Management (DoS in Food Technology) 5. Diploma in Yogic Science (DoS in Yogic Science) 6. Three-month Certificate Program in Yogic Science (DoS in Yogic Science)

II. UNIVERSITY POST-GRADUATE CENTRE, JNANAGANGOTHRI, CHITRADURGA.

Sl.No.	Faculty	Programs Offered
1	Arts	**M.A. in** Kannada, Economics, English , and Social Work.
2	Commerce and Management	**M.Com.**
3	Science and Technology	**M.Sc. in** Botany, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, and Zoology.

III. AFFILIATED & AUTONOMOUS COLLEGES:

DAVANGERE DISTRICT

Sl.No.	Name of the College	Programs Offered
1	Government First Grade College, Davangere.	**M.A. in** Kannada and English.
		M.Com.
		M.B.A (Admission through KEA-PGCET).
2	Sri Sri Shivalingeshwaraswamy Government First Grade College, Channagiri.	**M.A. in** Economics, Political Science andSociology.
		M.Com.
3	A.R.M. First Grade College, Davangere.	**M.Com.**
4	A.R.G. First Grade College, Davangere.	**M.Com.**
5	S.B.C. First Grade College for Women & Athani PG Centre, Davangere.	**M.A. in** English and Economics. **M.Com.**
6	Bapuji Academy of Management & Research, Davangere.	**M.B.A** (Admission through KEA-PGCET).
7	Bhadra Institute of Management & Information Studies, Davangere.	**M.Com.**
8	S.J.V.P. College, Harihara.	**M.Com.**
9	R.G. Institute of Commerce & Management, Davangere.	**M.B.A** (Admission through KEA-PGCET).
10	K.S.S. College of Education, Davangere.	**M.Ed.**

CHITRADURGA DISTRICT

11	Government Arts College (Autonomous) Chitradurga.	**M.A. in** Kannada; English, History & Archaeology, Political Science, Economics and Sociology. **M.Com.**
12	Government Science College, Chitradurga.	**M.Sc. in** Botany, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics.
13	Government First Grade College, Hosadurga.	**M.A. in** Kannada, History & Archaeology.
		M.Com.
14	H.P.P.C. Government First Grade College, Challakere.	**M.A. in** Kannada,Sociology.
		M.Com.
15	Smt. Yashodharamma Borappa First Grade Women's College, Chitradurga.	**M.A. in** English.
16	S.R.S. Degree College, Chitradurga.	Master of Computer Applications(Admission through KEA-PGCET)

Application Fee Details

Sl.No.	Particulars	OBC/GM	SC/ST/ Category-I	Details
1	Applications Processing and Entrance Exam Fees	Rs.1000/-	Rs.500/-	Fee to be paid through an SBI Bank Challan at State Bank of India **A/C No: 40619101261 IFSC Code: SBIN0040869,** Branch: Davangere University Branch or through Demand Draft in favour of Finance Officer, Davangere University, payable at Shivagangothri, Davangere
2	For Additional Programs	Rs.1000/-	Rs.500/-	

Submission of Applications: Eligible candidates shall download the prescribed application form from the Davangere University website: www.davangereuniversity.ac.in. The hard copies of the duly filled in application forms along with the necessary enclosures, shall be submitted either in person or by post to the **respective Post-Graduate Departments at Shivagangothri, Davangere only. Applications will be accepted from 01.07.2026 to 31.07.2026 during office hours (10:00 AM to 5:30 PM) on working days.**
Important: Candidates seeking admission to Post-Graduate/P.G. Diploma/Diploma/ Certificate Programs are advised to regularly visit the university website: www.davangereuniversity.ac.in for regular updates and additional details regarding admissions. No separate notifications will be sent in this regard.

IV. Documents (Photocopies) Required to be Submitted with the Applications:
(a) SSLC/X Standard Marks Card **(b)** Degree Marks Cards (year-wise for all three years/six semesters)
(c) Category and Income Certificate issued by a competent authority **(d)** Aadhaar Card
(e) For applicants with respect to Persons with Benchmark Disability (PwBD) /Sports /NSS / NCC /Rovers and Rangers/ Children of Defence Personnel/ Belong to Kalyana Karnataka -371(J)/Kannada Medium/ Children of farmers who have committed suicide, copies of the relevant documents issued by the appropriate authority must be submitted.

V. Schedule of Entrance Exam and Admission Counselling Process

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date
1	Starting Date for Submission of Applications	**01.07.2026**
2	Last date for submission of applications	**31.07.2026**
3	Dates of Entrance Test: (Time table for the Entrance Exam will be uploaded in the University website: www.davangereuniversity.ac.in).	**03.08.2026, 04.08.2026, 05.08.2026**
4	Announcement of Provisional Merit List	**07.08.2026**
Counselling, Centralised Admission to P.G. Programs and Commencement of Classes		
5	First Round of Counselling and Admissions to Merit, EFS , Special Category and Affiliated College Seats	**10.08.2026 and 11.08.2026**
	Second Round of Admissions	**12.08.2026 and 13.08.2026**
	Third Round of Admissions	**14.08.2026**
6	Commencement of Classes	**17.08.2026**

VI. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ADMISSION:
(1) Eligible candidates must submit a separate application for each Post-Graduate program offered at the various Post-Graduate Departments of the University including Shivagangothri, Davangere/ Post-Graduate Centre, Chitradurga/Constituent Colleges/ Autonomous Colleges/Affiliated Colleges for which they seek admission. Please note that the application processing and entrance exam fees must be paid separately for each program. **(2)** Candidates awaiting their Under-Graduate Degree results from Davangere University or other Universities are also eligible to submit their applications and appear for the entrance test. **(3)** Candidates will forfeit their right to admission if they fail to comply with any of the admission requirements, including the non-submission of relevant documents, unavailability of original documents, non-payment of fees within the prescribed date and time, or failure to report to the concerned University Department/Colleges within the stipulated timeframe. **(4)** If, at any stage, it is discovered that the original documents submitted for admission are fake, non-genuine, fabricated, or otherwise invalid in any way, the candidate will not be admitted. Even if already admitted, the admission will be cancelled without prior notice. If this is discovered after the completion of the program, the degree will be withdrawn, and appropriate legal action will be taken against the candidate. **(5)** The University reserves the right to transfer candidates (to the same program or a relevant program) to the main campus at Shivagangothri or to the Post-Graduate Centre Jnanagangothri, G.R Halli, Chitradurga vice-versa, if the number of students admitted to a particular program is fewer than 15 at any Campus of the University (Main Campus Shivagangothri or Post-Graduate Centre Jnanagangothri G.R Halli, Chitradurga) **(6)** Application and admission fees paid will not be refunded or adjusted under any circumstances. **(7)** Candidates are advised to read the E-Prospectus carefully before filling the application. **(8)** The hard copy of the duly filled in application form, along with the necessary enclosures, shall be submitted either in person or by post to the respective Post-Graduate Departments at Shivagangothri, Davangere only. **(9)** Candidates are required to collect their Admission Ticket before the Entrance Test from the respective PG Department's office at Shivagangothri campus, Davangere immediately after submitting their applications, without fail. **(10)** Candidates who have sent their applications by post may collect their Admission Ticket before the Entrance Test (preferably one day in advance). **(11)** Entrance test will be conducted at University's Main Campus, Shivagangothri, Davangere only. **(12)** After the entrance test, merit list will be prepared based on marks obtained in the entrance test and undergraduate degree (50:50). **(13)** Detailed Fee structure for Merit and Enhanced Fee Structure (EFS) seats is mentioned in Annexure -01 and is available on University Website. **(14)** Classes will commence on prescribed date, after the completion of the entire admission process.
"FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT UNIVERSITY WEBSITE"

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Excise scam calls for system reset

The Enforcement Directorate (ED)'s recent raids on Karnataka Excise Department officers have exposed what appears to be a deeply entrenched corruption network. Acting on a First Information Report registered by the Lokayukta, the ED searched 14 premises linked to senior excise officers, their families, and associates. The searches centred on Additional Excise Commissioner (Enforcement and Crime Headquarters, Belagavi) Y D Manjunath, Excise Deputy Commissioner Jagdish Nayak, and Superintendent K M Thammanna. Investigators unearthed Rs 5.5 crore in cash, gold worth Rs 7.8 crore, foreign currency, digital evidence, property documents and, most significantly, an unofficial cash book detailing the alleged collection and distribution of bribes. According to the ED, the Excise Department functioned like a well-oiled syndicate involving bureaucrats, intermediaries, and private individuals. Liquor establishments allegedly paid fixed monthly bribes to field officers, while additional payments were extracted for fresh licences, renewals, and transfers. The money was centrally pooled and laundered through *benami* liquor shops operated in the names of relatives and associates.

Only deep, institutional reform can dismantle Karnataka's entrenched excise corruption networks

None of this should come as a surprise. Earlier this year, the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Janata Dal (Secular) accused the Excise Department of running a large-scale bribery racket involving liquor licences. Those allegations gained credibility when the Lokayukta trapped three officers accepting Rs 25 lakh to clear bar and microbrewery licences. Whether every political charge was accurate is beside the point. There was sufficient evidence for the government and the Lokayukta to act much earlier instead of allowing the network to flourish.

The roots of the problem lie deeper than individual greed. Years of restrictions on issuing new liquor licences artificially created scarcity, inflating their commercial value and fostering rent-seeking. Transparent, competitive allocation must become the norm. Moving excise officials periodically to other departments may help disrupt entrenched networks, but transfers alone cannot dismantle a corrupt system. Transparent licensing, fully digital approvals, independent audits, fixed tenures, and swift prosecution must become standard practice. The Excise Department is the second largest contributor to Karnataka's own state revenue after commercial tax, with a target of Rs 45,000 crore. To restore public confidence, Chief Minister D K Shivakumar must go beyond incremental reforms and revamp the department, rebuilding it on the foundations of accountability, transparency, and integrity. Only a thorough restructuring will ensure that the Excise Department serves the state's interests rather than private gain.

A deeper maritime footprint

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's strategic three-day visit to Seychelles has reinforced India's relations with the Indian Ocean archipelago. Despite its small size, Seychelles occupies a crucial geopolitical position near critical sea lanes that connect Asia and Africa. While India's ties with its immediate neighbours remain fraught, its diplomatic and economic relations with Seychelles have stood out as robust and stable. Modi, as the Guest of Honour at the country's 50th Independence Day celebrations alongside President Patrick Herminie, underscored the significance of this partnership. The bilateral talks and the subsequent agreements focused on elevating economic and strategic cooperation between the two countries. Given Seychelles' expansive Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), enhanced marine cooperation may emerge as a pivotal, mutually beneficial outcome.

India handed over a patrol vessel and additional equipment to the Seychelles Coast Guard, sharpening its capabilities in ocean surveillance. This extends a series of Indian deliveries of patrol and interceptor vessels and maritime surveillance aircraft to the Seychelles defence force, alongside assistance in installing coastal surveillance radars. India also feeds Seychelles real-time intelligence on threats, such as narcotics trafficking, and trains its forces to counter them. The economic partnership also runs deep. Discussions are progressing on India's $175-million aid and economic package, which was announced earlier this year. The two sides inked agreements spanning multiple areas: from healthcare and agriculture to digital payment systems and space cooperation. India will also station four defence advisors in Seychelles under a fresh bilateral agreement, signalling intent for a deeper strategic collaboration.

PM Modi's Seychelles visit strengthens a key partnership as China's influence in the Indian Ocean Region grows

As an island nation, Seychelles is acutely vulnerable to the impact of climate change. Prime Minister Modi and President Herminie noted that small island states and the wider Global South will bear a disproportionate share of the costs of global warming. India has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Seychelles through cooperation in sustainable marine development, renewable energy and coastal management, and capacity-building efforts to confront climate risks. This partnership assumes greater strategic significance as the Indian Ocean becomes an arena of growing geopolitical competition, as China expands its influence across the region through infrastructure investments and financial assistance. India's engagement with Seychelles becomes vital against this backdrop. As Prime Minister Modi observed, the next fifty years of cooperation should be shaped by innovation, sustainability, and shared prosperity.

IN BAD FAITH

The moral reckoning in governance failures

In Ayodhya, a corruption scandal illustrates how institutional collapse consumes faith and public trust alike

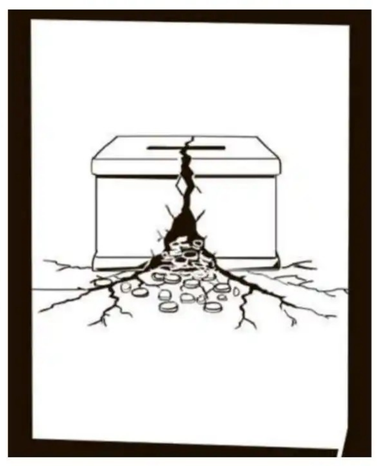
JAGDISH RATTANANI

The snowballing scandal over allegations of misappropriation of donations and offerings at the Ram Janmabhoomi temple at Ayodhya is the latest shocker in an all-enveloping sense of collapse that has gripped a range of Indian institutions. Our political systems, constitutional bodies, independent watchdogs, and now places of faith and worship appear to swim in the same muddy waters. This casts an air of gloom over the direction of a nation with mounting cases of corruption – from exam paper leaks to land grabs and banking scandals – that are in plain sight of the people.

It is easy to see the scandal at Ayodhya as a new low. This is, after all, the place that stood at the heart of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s volatile mix of politics and religion and contributed to the party's rise on the national scene. In that sense, this is a scandal in the heart of the BJP's political *sanctum sanctorum*. It mocks the devotion and reverence of millions of the faithful who have contributed to the construction, maintenance, and upkeep of the Ram temple. That even such a venerable icon of faith is at risk of being plundered by the very people entrusted with its construction and upkeep is a lament that signifies what this new low might look like.

Champat Rai, the all-powerful general secretary of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra, the trust that manages the temple, has resigned. A Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been set up by the Uttar Pradesh government, and eight people have been arrested as investigations continue. This is part of the standard political and administrative response to a standard scandal. Action of this kind is meant to restore faith, but here, the erosion of faith signals something much more significant.

It brings home to the faithful what a breakdown of governance looks like. Hitherto, questions concerning democracy, transparency, due process, integrity, and the like, which are all weak wickets for the establishment, were seen as questions limited to the politics of the day. If politics is murky, those in politics must learn to play the game while they keep their hold and expand their agenda. This simplistic split view of governance – that 'bad' governance can be ring-fenced and some 'good' can come out of it – collapses in the Ram temple scandal. It illustrates to an audience that has so far refused to ask the hard questions that a governance collapse sinks the nation and everyone with it, believers and non-believers, in



one boat. Bad governance thus works like an all-consuming fire that will burn everything down.

In this light, the scandal at Ayodhya is not a new low. It is all too expected as the slippery slope of a journey focused only on the ends without caring for the means. This collapse is a logical culmination of a system of leadership and governance that believes in and lives by the edict that results matter and how they are achieved does not. By allowing this path, we bid goodbye to the one principle that Indian spiritual traditions hold above all others: *dharma* must lead, and *artha* can only follow, meaning values are at the heart of the Indian way of living and thriving.

Internalising values

Nothing in the Indian tradition counts as success or achievement when it is attained by the wrong means. It is a powerful Indian spiritual lesson, reiterated in countless discourses and kathas, that all is lost when values are violated in pursuit of a goal, no matter how noble that goal may be. True, there are grey areas and dilemmas, but these must also be approached with an eye on living the values. Anything less is a short-term convenience that will cause long-term problems. The Ram temple controversy tells us that all this knowledge is turned on its head. The plunder is limited not to the material assets, but is a demolition of the civilisational and spiritual traditions by the very people who claim to defend them.

The renowned scholar and teacher of Advaita Vedanta in contemporary times, Swami Dayananda Saraswati (1930-2015), whom Prime Minister Narendra Modi had considered his spiritual guru, spoke of this binding duty towards a life of values. He taught the idea of understanding not just the values but also the value of living by those values, captured in his book *The Value of Values*. He wrote: "The expression of my life is just the expression of my well-assimilated value structure. Only assimilated values are my personal values... (They) reflect what is valuable to me." In this teaching, values are to be internalised and become an inseparable part of the person who internalises them. Their practice then comes naturally and is not imposed. Everything else becomes a charade played out in the name of values.

Yet, there is a complex and deep play about values. They appear to be of little use when results can be achieved by violating every value. As the clever and the smart begin to enjoy the game and notch up success after success without a value system, they set up the system for a spectacular collapse. Trust disappears, systemic decay sets in, and every achievement begins to ring hollow.

Indeed, one of the best lessons on values comes to us from Gandhi, who saw no distinction between means and ends: the means are the ends because they are the seeds that will flower tomorrow. A rotten seed cannot grow into a useful tree after all.

(The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SPJIMR; Syndicate: The Billion Press)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Enduring love for *fabrique* chiffon

I was fascinated by Maharani Gayatri Devi's elegant drape

MALATHI RAO

It was 1949. In the newfound spirit of nationalism and nation-building, a plethora of government organisations had sprung up. Of these, the Textile Commissioner's Office was an important segment in promoting the rich textile heritage of India. It was obvious that my father, an officer in the TC's office, was part of a textile trade delegation to West Asia. He was a graduate in dye chemistry with industry experience and was called upon to attend a week-long orientation course with Pupul Jayakar, the czarina of arts and crafts of India.

Mumbai was the hub of the textile industry, producing fabrics and clothing for the masses, especially fine cotton *saris* marketed by mills like Khatau, Calico, and Arvind. My sisters and I loved to shop for cotton *saris* in Carnac Road to flaunt them in the classrooms of the women's college where we studied. Being the oldest, I set the trend for my sisters and managed to learn a bit about fashion from magazines like *Femina* and *Eve's Weekly*. During my self-imposed fashion studies I got fascinated by French chiffon, worn with such grace and beauty by Maharani Gayatri Devi. Now there is no comparison between a Khatau cotton *sari* and the delicate French chiffon imported from Europe. My friends would tease me with, 'So when are we going to see you draped in French chiffon, M?' I made up my mind to surprise them all one day and started pestering my father to buy me a French chiffon *sari*, showing him a picture of Maharani Gayatri Devi draped in an elegant sea green print.

Exams and higher studies intervened, and the French chiffon was forgotten. My sisters and I took residence in a hostel in Bengaluru, which happened to be close to the *sari* market of Majestic Circle. My father, whose impeccable taste in colours and textures we admired, sent us parcels of *saris* from Mumbai, which we sisters joyfully shared. I remember one particular floral *sari* which my sister Vimala fancied and which I coveted too but had to forgo in my younger sister's favour.

Today among my inheritance of losses, I'd count my dear sister, Vimala, who is no more, and my departed father. It is a bittersweet thought, indeed, that Vimala's beautiful collection of *saris* was left as a legacy for me and my other sisters. Each and every *sari* brings back a poignant memory.

To end my story, the other day I had to attend a party, and I looked among my *saris* to choose one. Something which I hadn't noticed or paid attention to caught my eye. The pink floral *sari*. I took it down, feeling its feathery lightness, remembering how I had coveted it once. Turning it over, I caught a label on the edge of the material. Not a label, actually, but a black print message which said, '*Fabrique* chiffon, Made in France'. With a wrench in my heart, I thought my father had not forgotten.

As they say, every *sari* has a story.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Anti-rowdy squads welcome for reform and safety

This refers to 'No exemptions in rowdy sheet reviews' (June 30). Karnataka's move to form anti-rowdy squads shows resolve, yet the KSPCA's order to drop 66 names from the rowdy register exposes a deeper flaw.
The police skipped the two-year reviews mandated after the 2022 High Court ruling, and some names removed are reportedly still active offenders. Home Minister Priyank Kharge called the lapse unacceptable, but words alone cannot restore credibility. When procedure fails, both safety and liberty suffer. The law offers balance. A rowdy sheet is not a life sentence. Those who have reformed deserve deletion, and courts allow appeal through the KSPCA. But lapses cannot become escape routes for habitual criminals. The police must treat reviews as a duty, not paperwork. The authorities concerned must verify reform before closing files. Only rigorous, timely checks will protect the public while respecting individual rights. Justice fails if either side is careless.
Babu Crishna, Bengaluru

Punish the guilty

The recent revelation regarding the alleged misappropriation of funds tendered by devotees at the Ayodhya Ram Mandir is unfortunate and disconcerting. The reality is that the places of worship have become commercial centres. The unscrupulous elements managing these places of worship misuse the devotion of the devotees for the purpose of self-aggrandisement. There is no gainsaying the fact that the culprits who misuse the temple funds, irrespective of their political leanings, should be punished. Any institution, whether public or private, can survive and prosper only when strict administrative and financial practices are in place and are helmed by persons of unimpeachable integrity. Places of worship are no exception.
K R Jayaprakash Rao, Mysuru

Bhagyaraj's legacy

The passing of K Bhagyaraj marks the end of an extraordinary chapter in Indian cinema. He proved that compelling stories, thoughtful screenplays and authentic characters could leave a deeper impact than spectacle alone. The Tamil Nadu State honours bestowed upon him rightly acknowledge that artists who enrich society deserve the nation's gratitude. His films reflected everyday struggles, celebrated human resilience, and inspired generations of writers and directors. As audiences mourn his loss, we should also ensure that his creative legacy is preserved through film archives, educational institutions and public discussions. Great storytellers never truly leave; they continue to live through the ideas they gifted to society.
Vijaykumar H K, Raichur

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

I have no desire to wear grand crowns, nor do I have any intention of amassing diamonds and wealth... Power is temporary, it stays for a while and then it is gone... All my effort is solely to earn the reputation that 'if he gives his word, he will stand by it to any extent.'
Revanth Reddy, Telangana CM

Try your best to be a saint and see how far you'll fall.
Sai Marie Johnson

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

Trust will seal the trade deal

Strategic confidence beyond market access will determine the success of the India-US agreement

RAM SINGH

As trade negotiations between India and the United States approach their conclusion, with both sides reportedly having resolved most substantive issues, the unresolved remainder may prove decisive. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's observation at the G-7 Summit – that the contemporary world suffers less from a shortage of resources, technology, capital, or institutions than from a deficit of trust – captures an important truth about the present moment. The challenge before India and the US is no longer one of economic complementarity. It is one of political confidence. Tariffs, technology access, strategic reliability, geopolitical sensitivities, and policy predictability have become tests of intent rather than instruments of commerce.

The final one per cent of the negotiations is, therefore, not simply a trade question. It is a question of TRUST: Tariff certainty, Reliability of commitments, Understanding of strategic sensitivities, Strategic alignment, and Technological collaboration, as interests can produce agreements; trust alone sustains them.

The first and most visible test is tariffs. Trade negotiations often create the impression that market access is a technical exercise. In reality, tariffs are political statements about how nations value one another. India has reportedly offered near-zero duty access across most tariff lines. In return, New Delhi seeks not merely entry into the US market but a stable framework insulated from legislative surprises and episodic protectionism. Concerns over Section 232 duties on steel, aluminium and copper products, solar trade remedies, procurement restrictions, and export-control regimes are not merely commercial irritants. They raise a deeper question: can openness coexist with predictability? For India, preferential access vis-à-vis competitors such as China, Vietnam, and Bangladesh is ultimately about confidence in the durability of commitments.

If tariffs measure intent, reliability measures credibility. India's concerns extend beyond trade to uncertainty surrounding defence and technology cooperation. Delays in Tejas's engine supplies, constrained access to frontier AI ecosystems, and recurring sanctions-related anxieties have collectively raised questions about dependability. The issue is not whether technology is transferred today. It is whether commitments survive tomorrow's political transition.

The third pillar is understanding. Every strategic relationship rests on an appreciation of how the other side perceives its vulnerabilities. India expects recognition of its concerns relating to territorial integrity, strategic autonomy, and regional stability. Questions of Pakistan hyphenation, cross-border extremism, neighbourhood instability, and external involvement in domestic sensitivities are viewed through a security prism that Washington does not always fully appreciate. Likewise, India's energy choices arise less from geopolitical preference than from the developmental imperative of ensuring affordable and reliable energy for over a billion citizens.

Strategic alignment constitutes the fourth pillar. The India-US relationship must be anchored in a coherent understanding of long-term objectives. Both countries share interests in strengthening Quad centrality, securing maritime commons, diversifying resilient supply chains, and shaping emerging technology governance. Yet alignment weakens when policy signals move in divergent directions. Simultaneous outreach to Beijing and Islamabad while encouraging India to balance China, ambiguities in Indo-Pacific signalling, and technology-export controls create doubts about the durability of convergence.

Technology forms the final pillar. Initiatives such as the iCET/TRUST framework have expanded cooperation in semiconductors, defence innovation, advanced propulsion, cyber resilience, quantum technologies, clean energy, and space collaboration. Yet, beyond a buyer-seller relationship, India seeks co-development, co-production, source-code access, joint intellectual-property creation, talent mobility, and trusted innovation ecosystems. The future of the relationship will be shaped less by the exchange of goods than by the joint creation of knowledge.

An enduring collaboration

The trade deal must rest on these five pillars. For Washington, this requires greater policy consistency, fewer dissonant signals, dependable technology partnerships, and tariff arrangements that provide Indian goods and services a meaningful stake in the American market. For New Delhi, it means continuing reforms while leveraging diversification to expand strategic options.

India has responded to uncertainty not with confrontation but with prudence. Through calibrated statecraft and a deliberate expansion of partnerships spanning the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the European Union, and other emerging corridors, it has widened its geoeconomic options and strengthened its bargaining position. As India diversifies, the question is no longer whether New Delhi needs Washington; increasingly, it is whether Washington can afford strategic inattentiveness towards one of the world's most consequential growth poles.

The final one per cent of the India-US trade deal is not about tariffs. It is about trust, the indispensable bridge between India's civilisational statecraft and America's liberal democratic order.

(The writer is a professor and head [CDOE], Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi)

Rethinking NEET: How India selects its future doctors

VINCENT AROCKIASAMY

India's National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET), 2026, for undergraduate studies has concluded amid concerns over examination integrity. With millions completing the re-examination, public attention has focused on restoring confidence in the system.

The NEET was introduced to standardise medical admissions across India. A decade later, how this process identifies suitability for medical training invites reassessment. Does the NEET identify those best suited for medicine or those best prepared to succeed in a time-pressured examination?

The most consequential questions in medicine are rarely answered through rapid recall. They require judgment and the ability to navigate uncertainty. NEET remains a test of performance under pressure, privileging rapid retrieval of knowledge within time constraints. These skills represent only one dimension of competence. Clinical practice demands the ability to integrate information meaningfully over time. While the examination includes application, it remains weighted towards recall and time-pressured problem-solving. Higher-order abilities such as analysis and reasoning may be under-represented. Well-constructed multiple-choice questions can assess reasoning, but does the NEET consistently probe the depth of thinking required?

Closely linked to this is the issue of speed. For the recent re-examination, exam duration was extended by 15 minutes—an acknowledgement of the immense pressure on candidates. Yet, the examination continues to equate competence with speed, influenced by educational background, language fluency, and neurodiversity. This structure elevates test-taking efficiency into a proxy for ability, disadvantaging candidates whose cognitive strengths lie in depth rather than pace.

The rapid expansion of coaching centres has transformed preparation into an intensive process. Large cohorts undergo extended coaching in cloistered environments, creating a parallel educational ecosystem operating alongside—and often above—formal schooling. This narrows the focus towards examination performance over deeper conceptual understanding.

Beyond this, lies a wider social question. The NEET reflects the extraordinary aspirational demand for medical education in India, turning admission into a high-stakes social enterprise. Over time, this has generated intense parental expectations, pushing students into demanding preparation regimes. It is worth asking how far students' decisions reflect a realistic understanding of the profession. Further, uneven postgraduate opportunities add to ongoing uncertainty; there is limited public reflection on the realities of medical training, including its cognitive demands, medico-legal pressures and the cumulative risk of burnout.

Although the NEET is offered in multiple languages, concerns about translation consistency persist. School curricula vary considerably across states, with differing pedagogical emphases. While the NEET is broadly aligned with the NCERT syllabus, it assumes uniformity of exposure that does not exist in practice. A single national examination, however fair in intent, risks operating upon unequal starting points, creating disparities in outcomes.

Students frequently encounter Class 12 content during Class 11 as preparation begins early, redirecting schooling towards examination-oriented drilling. This compromises the space required for conceptual depth. A related concern is that sustained academic performance carries little weight; the discipline and consistency built over a decade are subordinated to a single day's performance. This weakens incentives for broad learning and reinforces the perception that a single test is the sole academic benchmark. Longitudinal academic performance should be an important complement to a single examination. Multiple attempts are common, creating prolonged uncertainty for families, where the consequences of a single day extend across several years.

In many international jurisdictions, medical admissions incorporate multiple measures, including academic performance, aptitude testing and assessment of non-cognitive attributes such as empathy and resilience. While not directly transferable to India's scale, such approaches offer useful directions for strengthening selection.

Transparent blueprinting could improve validity by clarifying the balance between recall, application, and reasoning. Question design should better reflect critical thinking, supported by carefully governed situational judgment components that assess broader decision-making abilities.

While the NEET effectively ranks candidates, it is less clear how readiness for medical training is defined. A standard-setting framework would help define the competence expected at entry. Equally, time pressure deserves reconsideration so that speed does not overshadow comprehension. In the interest of equity, standardised accommodations for candidates with disabilities should be considered, ensuring assessment measures competence rather than differential disadvantage.

Recent events have highlighted that credibility depends on public trust. Sustaining that trust is essential to the legitimacy of any national examination. Advances in assessment design offer opportunities to reduce malpractice while preserving validity, and India's digital infrastructure offers considerable potential for reforms that strengthen exam integrity.

A medical entrance assessment should include counselling and career orientation to help aspirants better understand the professional demands of medicine.

(The writer is a clinical assistant professor of paediatrics, University of British Columbia, Canada)

Six days after devastating twin earthquakes flattened entire residential neighbourhoods, the official death toll of 1,719 could be a serious undercount

Residents search through the rubble of a building that collapsed in the earthquakes in La Guaira, Venezuela, on Tuesday. AP/PTI

Why Venezuela's quake death toll is so hard to know

EMMA BUBOLA, LEO SANDS, ISAYEN HERRERA AND TIBISAY ROMERO

It has been six days since devastating twin earthquakes flattened entire residential neighbourhoods in Venezuela, and dozens of new bodies are still being hauled out of the rubble.

On Monday, rescuers piled up coffins inside an improvised morgue at the sun-scorched port in the town of La Guaira, one of the hardest-hit areas. Small trucks arrived with more bodies, leaving them arranged in a long row by a concrete dock.

"Every day the number of victims keeps going up," said Jennifer Moreno Canizales, a spokesperson for the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Caracas. "And we expect it to keep rising."

The official death toll after Venezuela's earthquakes rose Monday to 1,719 people, an increase of nearly 300 since Sunday. It is based on the number of bodies recovered during the search operations, Moreno Canizales said.

But sobering as it is, that figure could be a substantial undercount. Many more Venezuelans remain missing, with chances of finding them alive shrinking every day.

The uncertainty of the number is not just a matter for the journalistic or historic record. For many Venezuelans, it signifies their anguished limbo as they search for friends with bleeding hands, trapped between uncertainty and a desperate refusal to accept the worst.

There is no official or reliable toll for the missing. And with so much debris from tall residential buildings pressed tightly together, and a shortage of heavy machinery to remove the rubble, estimates of how many people might still be trapped inside vary widely.

Two forensic doctors at the main morgue in the capital, Caracas, estimated a death toll of about 4,000, basing that on the number of bodies that had been arriving at a morgue in La Guaira every day.

In anticipation of the toll increasing, the United Nations has been procuring 10,000 body bags in coordination with Venezuela's government, said Gianluca Rampolla del Tindaro, the organisation's resident coordinator for Venezuela. "That is the applying assumption; it's very sad," he said.

According to an unofficial website where Venezuelans can report the missing, more than 46,000 people were still unaccounted for. The New York Times could not independently verify the figure, which can include people who became separated from relatives. To veteran rescue workers, the high number of reported missing may be ominous.

"Contact is difficult, but not that difficult that you wouldn't have gotten in contact," said Linda Hornisberger, the president of REDOG, a nonprofit Swiss search-and-rescue association that has deployed eight dogs and 88 emergency responders to Venezuela since Friday. "We must assume most to be dead."

Hornisberger said that despite working eight- to 12-hour shifts for days, "we have not been able to rescue anybody."

Disaster response experts say that it often takes several weeks for a full picture to emerge after disasters of this magnitude.

When Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico in 2017, the official government death toll was 64 people. Nearly a year later, they updated it to 2,975, nearly 50 times as high.

After the Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004, when entire coastal villages were completely erased, it took the authorities more than a year to settle on the final estimate of 230,000 victims.

Several signs out of Venezuela indicate that there might also be a delay before a final death toll is reached.

The day the earthquake struck was a holiday in Venezuela, when it was more likely that families would have been home, or had travelled to the seaside area of La Guaira. Many buildings there were built during an economic boom in the 1970s and 1980s, when developers erected tall towers, many 10 stories or more. A mountain range limited building space, which led developers to choose to build vertically, said Josué Araque, a Venezuelan geographer.

Now, many of those buildings have been pancaked into a dense tangle of debris.

"They are mountains of rubble from buildings of many, many levels, made of concrete, which basically turns them into tombs," Araque said. It is difficult to search the lowest floors of the buildings, he said, "because there are 10 floors that fell on top of them."

Araque said he believed that there were probably many more missing people whom "they probably will not be able to recover."

There is 1.2 million tons of debris in the hardest-hit areas of La Guaira, the UN Development Program said Monday.

Moreno Canizales, from the UN, said 700 buildings had collapsed. Despite the rescue teams' best efforts, she said, "it is hard to reach them all in time" to rescue those who might still be trapped alive.

Del Tindaro, the UN humanitarian coordinator in Venezuela, also said in an interview that the high number of collapsed buildings indicated that the official toll was an undercount.

Ilan Kelman, a professor of disasters and health at University College London, said a full accounting of the number of deaths might never be known. But a preliminary projection that the final toll could exceed 10,000 — shared by the US Geological Survey based on factors including the magnitude of the earthquake, the population density and local infrastructure—remains grimly feasible, he said.

A difficult search

The work of recovering bodies is painstakingly slow, and it's not a priority for most response teams that are trying to save those who may be still alive. On Sunday, 49 rescue teams coordinated by the UN rescued seven survivors, Moreno Canizales said. Sometimes, she said, the teams are responding to families telling them that they can hear a relative crying from the rubble.

When the disaster response shifts, more bodies are likely to be found, experts said.

"The focus of the search-and-rescue teams is to look for those who might be alive" based on reports of sound and motion, said Phil Gelman, a Latin America coordinator with GOAL, an international humanitarian response agency. "When the search-and-rescue phase is ended, and heavy machinery is moved in to move rubble, the casualty count will rise."

Even in well-organised response efforts, many survivors end up being rescued by untrained friends, family and neighbours, said Emily So, a professor of architectural engineering at the University of Cambridge.

One Caracas resident, Rosmaria Herrera, 30, said she had lost at least three relatives. Family members and other civilians pulled the bodies of her father, her cousin and her grandmother out of the rubble. But they couldn't find her uncle.

"It's strange, because there is practically nothing left of the building," she said.

Witnesses and aid workers described a shortage of heavy machinery as one of the biggest obstacles to rescue efforts, saying volunteers often lacked the equipment needed to move concrete slabs and reach survivors trapped beneath collapsed buildings.

In videos widely shared on social media, residents pleaded for excavators and other heavy equipment. In one, a man says neighbours pooled their own money to hire machinery after waiting days for government assistance to arrive.

"If we keep waiting for our wonderful authorities, another week will go by with our relatives still buried there," he says. "We had to start doing this ourselves."

Some victims will likely die from their injuries, in part because of Venezuela's already overstretched health system, Kelman said.

So said the final toll would likely be determined by the number of people reported missing, the extent of visible damage to buildings and impeded access to the worst hit areas, which has stymied some responses.

"Tragically, until they recover the bodies from underneath the rubble," So said. "The count will be low."

The New York Times

The rise and risk of intelligent forensics

THAJASWINI C B AND PASAPALA SYED MUSTAQ

Forensic science has long occupied a uniquely important place within the justice delivery system. A fingerprint recovered from a crime scene, a disputed signature on a promissory note, traces of blood or semen on clothing, DNA residues found on the victim's body, or deleted conversations extracted from a mobile phone often become the very foundation upon which courts attempt to reconstruct truth and biological evidence. In many criminal prosecutions and even in civil disputes involving disputed documents, scientific evidence frequently determines whether justice succeeds or fails.

What is changing today, however, is not the importance of forensic science, but the manner in which forensic science itself is being performed. Artificial intelligence has slowly entered the investigative process and is altering the traditional methods through which evidence is collected, processed and interpreted.

Perhaps the clearest example lies in fingerprint analysis. Forensic experts have traditionally relied upon manual comparison systems that required both time and meticulous expertise. Today, AI-powered systems such as Automated Fingerprint Identification Systems can compare millions of fingerprint records almost instantly, which is making identification dramatically faster and significantly more efficient. It has stretched beyond fingerprints to break down biological datasets with far more optimal speed than laboratory methods.

Similarly, murder investigations increasingly rely upon advanced digital forensic systems capable of reconstructing crime scenes, analysing ballistic patterns, tracing deleted communication records, identifying behavioural patterns and recovering cloud-stored evidence. At a time when cybercrime is rapidly expanding, such technological assistance has become nearly indispensable for modern law enforcement, and where investigative agencies remain burdened by infrastructural limitations, overworked personnel and staggering case pendency, the attraction of such efficiency is obvious.

Indian law already acknowledges the importance of scientific evidence. The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, strengthens the role of forensic investigation in criminal procedure, while the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam continues to recognise expert opinion as relevant evidence before courts. Nevertheless, as we all know, it is still only an opinion and does not hold any binding value or is considered conclusive proof of evidence.

In 2018, the forensic medical examination guidelines were issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs for sexual assault cases, which laid down standardised procedures for preserving evidence, collecting biological samples and maintaining medico-legal documentation, highlighting the role forensic science plays in the administration of justice.

AI is celebrated for its speed and precision, but its reliability depends on the quality of the data it is trained upon. Poor datasets can lead to flawed results and eventually influence erroneous judgments. For instance, facial recognition might misidentify innocent people, and predictive policing can unintentionally propagate existing biases. Many AI systems also function through opaque internal models, making it difficult for investigators or courts to understand how specific conclusions are formed.

In criminal law, where liberty itself is at stake, unexplained technological conclusions cannot *prima facie* be accepted as unquestionable truth. Over-reliance on AI could gradually diminish the importance of skilled forensic professionals. As automation increases, it naturally decreases the requirement for human intervention and might eventually replace specialised expertise acquired through years of scientific training and practical experience.

Globally, legal systems have begun recognising these concerns. The European Union's AI regulatory framework now subjects high-risk AI systems used in law enforcement to stricter scrutiny, but India lacks a dedicated legal framework regulating artificial intelligence within criminal investigation and forensic practice, which is the need of the hour.

Stephen Hawking once warned that humanity's greatest technological achievement may also become its greatest danger if approached carelessly. That warning deserves particular attention in the administration of justice.

AI will undoubtedly strengthen forensic science by reducing investigative burden and by assisting agencies struggling under overwhelming caseloads, but machines must never be allowed to decide truth. The courtroom cannot become the final laboratory of algorithms. Justice, in the end, must remain a profoundly human responsibility.

(Thajaswini is an advocate practising before the Supreme Court of India, and Madras and Delhi High Courts. Mustaq is an advocate practising before the High Court of Andhra Pradesh and the District Court, Allagadda)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: JULY 1976

PM never meant Opposition must be subdued

New Delhi, June 30

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi today clarified that she did not mean the Opposition parties should be subdued. Speaking at a function to felicitate Mr. M. Chalapathi Rau on his completing 30 years as Editor of the National Herald, she said: "Some misunderstanding has been created on my comments on the Opposition in a recent interview. It may be that I did not express myself very clearly. I was referring to the banned extremist groups and the fact that the Opposition parties were still dependent on the cadres of these groups."

25 YEARS AGO: JULY 2001

Karunanidhi roughed up, jailed

Chennai, June 30

In a predawn swoop reminiscent of the dark days of the Emergency, the Chennai police today stormed the Oliver Road residence of 78-year-old DMK President and four times chief minister M Karunanidhi, dragged him out of bed and beat him up before arresting him in a newly dug up case concerning alleged misappropriation of Rs 12 crore in the construction of flyovers in the city. Mr Karunanidhi was arrested around 1:45 am by a team of the Crime Branch CID without any warrant on the basis of a complaint given by newly appointed Chennai Corporation Commissioner A Acharyalu.

OASIS | CHANDER GUPTA

When looking matters more than being

The line between the real and the artificial is getting blurred gradually. It is hard to distinguish between the real and artificial plants that adorn the drawing rooms and lobbies. I am puzzled as to why artificial plants are placed inside houses for the purpose of decoration. If you want to add a touch of greenery in your indoor spaces, keep real plants.

Artificial plants are perhaps convenient: no watering, no manuring, and so on. However, artificial things are ultimately artificial only.

Artificial plants do not emit fragrance and do not give the pleasure of watching them grow. No fresh flowers sprout on artificial plants. Why are we moving towards artificial plants? Artificial jewellery is equally deceptive. Is the 'artificial' becoming the new normal?

Pretensions are superseding the real and the genuine. We tend to pretend to be genuine without meaning to be. Are we not veering towards rituals, away from the actual? Rituals are performed as if the real thing has been done. Performance of rituals is not, however, performance of duties.

Does wishing women a Happy Women's Day on March 8 make up for ingrained patriarchal and misogynistic mindset displayed throughout the year? Likewise lip-service is doled out on Father's Day, Mother's Day, etc.

While we are discussing 'the artificial', the phrase that comes uppermost in mind is 'artificial intelligence'. The connotation of the word 'artificial' in conjunction with 'intelligence' is entirely different from the connotation that the word 'artificial' denotes when used in respect of plants or in respect of jewellery. 'Artificial intelligence' is a proper noun like a plant is. If we prefix the word 'artificial' to 'plant' to convey that it is artificial, we will have to prefix the word 'artificial' before 'artificial intelligence'. It will sound 'artificial' artificial intelligence.

Looking has become more important than being. Cosmetic is becoming the norm. The art of lip service is being perfect in disregard to actual service. Distinguishing between the artificial and the real is itself becoming challenging. Life is increasingly becoming a binary between artificial and real.

Artificiality has its place. It can serve a purpose, simplify life, and even enhance it. The real challenge before us is not artificial intelligence but artificial living.

Rain deficit in state hits 42%

HUBBALLI, DHNS: Only six of the 31 districts in the state received above-normal rainfall this June. While the overall rainfall deficit in the state stands at 42% compared to normal rainfall years, the worst affected are the Malnad region with 52% less rainfall compared to previous June and 49% less rainfall in coastal areas.

North Interior Karnataka faced a 28% deficit in rainfall, while South Interior Karnataka received 5% less rainfall compared to normal rainfall years. Karnataka usually receives 199 mm of rainfall in June; however, this year it has received only 116 mm.

Kodagu, the main catchment area of River Cauvery, received only 197 mm of rainfall against an average of 533 mm (a 63% deficit), followed by Chikkamagalur, which received only 132 mm against 328 mm. Shivamogga (194 mm against 472 mm) and Hassan (91 mm against 164 mm) also received less than 50% of their normal rainfall.

Udupi, which receives the state's highest average rainfall of 1105 mm in June, received only 558 mm, while Dakshina Kannada received only 395 mm against an average of 927 mm in June.

Vijayanagar received the least rainfall in June at 31.5 mm and Davangere received 36.5 mm.

Situation grim as 10 major dams together are just 22% full

Only 44 tmc ft in live storage or usable for drinking or other purposes

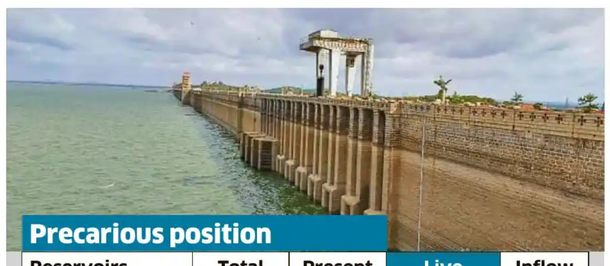
PAVAN KUMAR H
HUBBALLI, DHNS

Four of the six major reservoirs in the Krishna basin are receiving zero water inflow. The four major reservoirs in Cauvery basin together received 3,121 cusec of water inflow on June 30. Cauvery basin dams received 54,010 cusec of water on the same date last year.

Currently, 10 major reservoirs that primarily serve drinking water needs of the state have stored only 22% of their total capacity, while last year on the same date the reservoirs were fast filling with 59% of their capacity.

According to data from the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre, the 10 reservoirs have a total storage capacity of 537 tmc ft of water, out of which the present storage level is 125 tmc ft. However, of the total present level, only 44 tmc ft of water is in live storage, meaning the quantum of water that is usable and can be supplied for drinking or other purposes.

Dams whose inflow has stopped are Tungabhadra, Ghataprabha, Malaprabha and Almatti. However, officials are releasing 1,411 cusecs of water daily to keep rivers alive. Last year, the Krishna basin reservoirs were receiving 1.73 lakh cusec of water during this period.



Precarious position

Reservoirs	Total capacity	Present storage	Live storage (all in tmc ft)	Inflow (cusec)
Almatti	123	21	3.36	0
Tungabhadra	105	9	3.89	0
Bhadra	71	24	10.85	211
Hidkal	51	7	3	0
Malaprabha	38	9	1.5	0
Narayanpura	33	20	5.95	238
Harangi	8.5	3.2	2.45	497
Hemavathi	37	14.89	10.52	492
KR Sagar	49	11.16	2.78	618
Kabini	19	5	0	1514
Vanivilas Sagar	30	20	21	0

Water Resources Department Additional Chief Secretary Gaurav Gupta says for June, Karnataka has faced one of the worst deficits in rainfall in the last 100 years; this has impacted the filling up of the reservoirs.

Drinking water priority

"As per the national and state water policy, drinking water has been given top priority and all officers have been so directed. Regional commissioners and deputy commissioners have been directed at a meeting chaired by the chief minister to manage the limited water resources to ensure adequate supplies for drinking purposes."

Former director of Water and Land Management Institute (WALMI), Dharwad, Rajendra Poddar says Karnataka is in a risky situation due to low storage of water at reservoirs and poor inflow.

"With India expected to face El Nino effect, we are expecting below-average rainfall this monsoon. During this uncertain period, the state government must prioritise water conservation at leas now."

Ministerial aspirants call on Siddaramaiah at his residence

Sidelining him will prove a big blunder: Rajanna

BENGALURU, DHNS

Former chief minister Siddaramaiah's residence became a power centre on Tuesday as several Congress leaders, mostly ministerial aspirants, called on him.

N Chaluvarayaswamy, Madhu Bangarappa, Santosh Lad, K M Shivalinge Gowda, Srinivas Mane, Yasir Ahmed Khan Pathan and K Venkatesh met Siddaramaiah.

Chikkaballapur MLA Pradeep Eshwar also called on Siddaramaiah. Pradeep narrated what happened during the Kempegowda Jayanti event in his constituency when some JD(S) workers threw slippers towards him.

Siddaramaiah rang up Home Minister Priyank Kharge and sought a proper investigation into the incident. He urged Pradeep not to get disheartened and told him that such incidents were common in political life.

The former chief minister rued that a lawmaker from the governing dispensation had to face such an incident despite police presence.

Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara also met Siddaramaiah and held talks.

It is said that several lawmakers are seeking Siddaramaiah's support for their ministerial aspirations.

Chief Minister D K Shivakumar's Cabinet is awaiting an expansion. There are 20 positions vacant in the 34-member Cabinet.

Speaking to reporters separately, former minister K N Rajanna said the Congress party cannot afford to neglect the former chief minister.

Fire breaks out in D'gere hospital's OT

DAVANGERE, DHNS: Fire broke out in ENT operation theatre (OT) of Chigateri District General Hospital in the city turning medical equipment worth over Rs 75 lakh to ashes following short-circuit in anesthesia work station on Tuesday.

Speaking to *DH*, resident medical officer Nagaveni said no casualties were reported.

Data collection crippled as over 50% rain ...

Rain gauge, From Page 1

He added that the centre provides annual maintenance funds only for stations that are active.

Growers of horticultural crops fear that they may not get fair compensation for crop loss as the rainfall data is unavailable. Horticulture Department Joint Director from from Davangere, GC Raghavendra Prasad, said the data furnished by these stations is crucial to provide compensation to the farmers in case of crop failure. Environmental factors affecting crop growth and resulting in low yields are assessed using data collected from these stations.

Shivamogga Deputy Commissioner Prabhuling Kavalikatti informed that when he took charge as head of the district, of the 280 rain gauge stations, over 208 were not functioning, and this had caused a huge loss to farmers as they failed to get proper compensation for crop loss. In order to ensure that they do not face the same problem this year, steps have been taken to repair faulty rain gauge stations. As of now, as many as 111 stations are functioning, and 169 are not working.

In Dakshina Kannada, of the 274 stations, 166 are not working, said district disaster management authority coordinator Vijay Kumar. Tenders have been floated at the state level for repair works. Of the 242 stations in Chikkamagaluru district, 136 are not functioning. There are network issues in six stations, and 129 rain gauges have to be repaired, said Additional DC Nanjundegowda. In Kalaburgi district, 164 stations are working, and 117 are not working. ajya Raitha Sangha President H R Basavarajappa said areca growers received meagre compensation under the scheme last year.

Shivakumar pledges to free state of drugs by 2028

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Tuesday pledged to make Karnataka drugs-free by 2028.

He was speaking after launching two new campaigns to combat drug abuse at Kanteerava stadium here.

"If the public and parents can give information—which will be kept confidential—they will be incentivised by the police department. In the last three years, under the guidance of the then home minister G Parameshwara, drugs worth Rs 89 crore were destroyed," he said.

Shivakumar and Home Minister Priyank Kharge kick-started 'Operation RISE (R: Refuse, I: Inform, S: Support and E: Empower)' and 'Beda Bro' (No Bro) to combat narcotics peddling and substance abuse and raise awareness during the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking event.

"The initiatives will address the menace of narcotics through a holistic, whole-of-government approach," as per a statement.

The state police will also destroy 4,276.405 kg of seized narcotic substances worth Rs 97.9 crore after obtaining the necessary permissions from the courts concerned.

Students hold placards during an awareness campaign to mark International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Bengaluru on Tuesday. DH PHOTO/PRASHANTH H G

"The Beda Bro campaign is a targeted awareness initiative that engages young people in preventing substance abuse through education and community participation. Using simple, relatable and youth-friendly messaging, it raises awareness about physical, mental, social and legal consequences of drug abuse while encouraging informed decision-making and resistance to peer pressure. It encourages people, especially youth, to refuse drugs and make healthy lifestyle choices," the statement said.

Operation RISE, on the other hand, focuses on creating awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse through public campaigns, educational programmes and community outreach, while also promoting access to counselling, treatment and rehabilitation services for individuals affected by addiction.

"It adopts a multi-stakeholder approach by bringing together departments such as police, revenue, transport, higher education, medical education, health and the drugs controller. These departments work in coordination to strengthen enforcement, monitor illegal drug activities, spread awareness and support rehabilitation efforts," the statement said.

Cross-voting: Belur MLA takes truth test in Dharmasthala

MANGALURU, DHNS

Amid the controversy over alleged cross-voting by BJP MLAs in the recently held Legislative Council election, Belur MLA Hullahalli K Suresh visited Dharmasthala on Tuesday and informed mediapersons that he took an oath before Lord Manjunatheshwara Swamy, denying the allegations against him.

After offering prayers at the temple, Suresh said that some people had accused him of cross-voting. "I am an honest party worker and have not engaged in any cross-voting," he maintained.

He said he prayed for the well-being of those who had tried and committed worker. "I come from a Sangh Parivar background and consider the BJP as my mother. I have not engaged in cross-voting in the Legislative Council election. I cast my vote for the candidate fielded by the party leadership," he said.

"I solemnly swear before Lord Manjunatha that I voted for the candidate fielded by the party leadership. Lord Manjunatha and the people of my constituency are witnesses to my act. The BJP is like a mother to me. Some people, unable to tolerate my political growth and popularity, are making baseless allegations against me," Suresh added.

He said that he has written letters to Party President B Y Vijayendra, leader of opposition, party in charge of Karnataka and BJP National General Secretary Radha Mohan Das Agarwal, BJP National General Secretary (Organisation) B L Santhosh in this regard.

He also said that he offered prayers to Annappa Swamy at Annappa Betta Dharmasthala, where he broke a coconut and prayed that those spreading false allegations against him be blessed with wisdom.

Following his temple visit, he met Dharmadhikari D Veerendra Heggade.

Kharif sowing slumps 23%...

Kharif, From Page 1

"The next 15 days will be critical as we have to watch closely the behaviour of the monsoon. Until June 15, farmers were largely engaged in field preparation and sowing," says Dr Jeet Singh Sandhu, a senior agricultural scientist.

"If rains arrive during the next 15 days, there should be no major issues. However, if the dry spell continues beyond that, it could severely affect seed germination and plant growth," says Dr Sandhu, who is also former Agriculture Commissioner with the Ministry of Agriculture.

He expressed serious concern over the current situation, noting that most water bodies are either empty or have very low storage levels. "If good rainfall does not occur and these water bodies are not replenished, farmers will find it extremely difficult to make alternative arrangements for irrigation," Sandhu added. Reservoir levels present a mixed picture. As of June 25, the total live storage in 166 important reservoirs monitored by the Central Water Commission stood at 48.405 billion cubic metres (BCM), equivalent to 26.37% of full reservoir level capacity. This is lower than last year's storage (73.21% of previous levels). Of the 166 reservoirs, 111 had more than 80% of normal storage, while 55 were at or below 80%, with 29 of those at 50% or less of normal levels.

HC refuses to quash case against school after class 4 boy lost vision on bus

BENGALURU, DHNS: The High Court has refused to quash proceedings against a school management pertaining to an incident, in which a class 4 student loss vision and suffered disability.

"Safety of children in a school bus is not a matter of charity or convenience; it is a solemn obligation mandated under the Statute as well," Justice M Nagaprasanna said.

The incident happened in Maddur, Mandya district, on August 1, 2025, when the boy was travelling in the school bus. Some students sprayed coloured confetti/sparklers inside the bus and one such spray entered the eyes of the boy.

A childish mischief ended in a calamity of lifelong consequence with the child losing vision in one eye and suffered disability assessed at 40% to the whole body.

The management of Divyajyothi School challenged the proceedings initiated on the complaint filed by the child's parents. It argued that all necessary precautions had been taken, including an attender in the bus and CCTV.

Further, it contended that the school management cannot be hauled for the act of another child or act that happened inside a school bus after the hours of the school.

However, police argued that although CCTV was installed inside the bus, it was not functioning and the attender was not present.

Justice Nagaprasanna noted that a school which undertakes to transport children assumes a duty of care that is heightened, not diminished, by the tender age of those entrusted to it. The Karnataka Educational Institutions (Classification, Regulation and Prescription of Curricula, etc,) Rules, 2018, regulates the educational institutions, including transportation, the court said, adding that a child which travels in a school bus which is an extension of the school itself, cannot be left high and dry till the child from the school reaches the house even if it is the last stop.

'State lax in enforcing Kannada Act in CBSE schools'

CBSE, From Page 1

The government can also withdraw the no-objection certificate.

Former minister Madhu Bangarappa, said, "Under the Kannada Language Learning Act 2015, teaching Kannada is mandatory across all schools. Consequently, CBSE schools are legally required to teach Kannada as either a first or second language.

Given this framework, the NCERT's recent directive to mandate Kannada a third language for Class 6 is highly irresponsible. The circular issued in this regard must be rescinded immediately."

Reacting to the issue, Mansoor Ali Khan, general secretary of the Management of Independent CBSE schools Association - Karnataka said all CBSE schools have implemented the Act.

"The CBSE and the state government must coordinate better. No school in the state has said no to the implementation of the Act.

We have even written to CBSE and NCERT seeking clarity," he said.

Why the Act

In 2014, when the state government lost a case in the Supreme Court regarding medium of instruction, it decided to ensure schools at least teach Kannada as a language and framed this legislation in 2015.

According to the Act, teaching Kannada as first or the second language is a must, even at schools affiliated to other boards.

Dedicated ambulances for Metro passengers

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The state government will soon start dedicated ambulance services to provide emergency medical care to passengers on Bengaluru's Namma Metro network, Health and Family Welfare Minister U T Khader announced on Tuesday.

Speaking to reporters, Khader said he would hold discussions with the Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) to deploy ambulances and station health care workers at major metro stations. "Lakhs of people travel by Metro every day. Many passengers face great difficulty in getting timely ambulance services during medical emergencies while commuting."

The minister also announced the resumption of bike ambulance services at major cities in the state. Additionally, the government plans to introduce boat ambulances for emergency healthcare support to fishing communities.

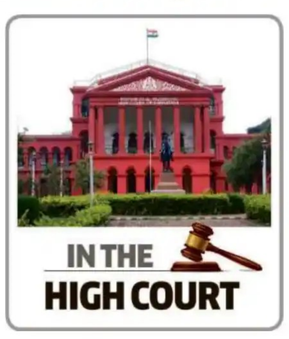
Khader said he met Union Health Minister J P Nadda and urged him to release the pending Rs 400 crore allocated to Karnataka under the National Health Mission.

He also requested an increase in the monthly honorarium of ASHA workers from the existing Rs 8,000 to Rs 10,000.

He brought to Nadda's notice the recurring cases of KFD (monkey fever), in Malnad region. He requested the union government to direct the Indian Council of Medical Research to expedite efforts to develop a vaccine for the disease. On the proposal to ban mobile phone use by those under 18 years of age, he said the decision rested with the Centre.

Plea in High Court against shifting Bangalore Turf Club to Kunigal Stud Farm

BENGALURU, DHNS: The High Court of Karnataka on Monday ordered notices to the Union and the state governments in a PIL petition against the proposed shifting of Bangalore Turf Club (BTC) to the Kunigal Stud Farm.



A division bench of Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice K S Hemalekha also ordered notices to the National Biodiversity Board, the Karnataka State Biodiversity Board and the BTC.

Vijay Nishanth, a resident of Bengaluru, challenged the order issued by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Fisheries on March 6, 2026, proposing to allot/lease 110 acres and 20 guntas of land at Kunigal Stud Farm to BTC.

The petition stated that Kunigal Stud Farm has historical significance, dating back to the erstwhile Mysore ruler Tipu Sultan era when it was used for breeding horses for his cavalry and is an ecologically significant landholding.

sAccording to the petitioner, the government order was issued without any prior environmental impact assessment, biodiversity assessment, ecological study, hydrological assessment or equine carrying capacity study.

State SIR kicks off amid confusion, doubts

SIR, From Page 1

Lack of training

Lack of training among BLOs in handling the SIR application was a persistent problem. Some BLOs encountered locked doors. While some such persons may have been temporarily absent, others had moved.

Confusion was also caused, as it was not initially clear if electors could collect forms in the absence of their family members.

Chief Minister D K Shivakumar fills the SIR enumeration form.

Later in the day, Chief Minister D K Shivakumar clarified that one person from a family could fill up the enumeration forms and sign on behalf of their family members.

"Any one person from the family can fill up the enumeration forms and sign on behalf of all family members. The voters can also change their photo while submitting the application. The government of Karnataka is ready to provide all necessary documentation needed for the SIR process," he added.

Linguistic minorities found it difficult to cope with the enumeration forms in Kannada, and felt alternative forms in English were needed. The house-to-house visits will conclude on July 29.

The CM later posted on X: "My request to all citizens and eligible voters: All of you should extend full cooperation to BLOs, provide the necessary information, and ensure your details are correctly recorded in the electoral roll."

8 staff arrested over financial fraud at sugar factory

VIJAYAPURA, DHNS

District superintendent of police Lakshman Nimbargi announced on Tuesday that eight staff members of the Nandi co-operative sugar factory at Krishna Nagar in Babaleshwar taluk had been arrested on charges of irregularities in weighing sugarcane and embezzlement of funds.

An amount of Rs 11.32 crore has been recovered from them, Nimbargi told a press meet.

They had illegally transferred Rs 12.33 crore to bank accounts of 91 individuals. The money pertained to 34,490 metric tonnes (MT) of sugarcane procured from farmers for crushing between the years 2020 and 2026.

The arrested are weighing centre personnel Dhareppa Navi of Bidari village in Jamakhandi taluk, Bheerappa Gadadara, Yellappa Gadadara of Yaragatti village in Belagavi district, Prakash Gaddi, Paramanand Gaddi, Mahadev Kamble and Balappa Chopade of Alakanur village in Raibag taluk of Belagavi district and Prabhakar Singe of Ugar village.

The suspects had indulged in cheating in sugarcane weighing earlier too at various sugar factories in Bagalkot and Belagavi districts, with cases registered against them, the SP said.

The suspects had co-opted field officers and token operators at the factory into their scheme of things. It is said that they used to get bogus tokens generated with respect to some of the tractor loads of sugarcane coming to the factory and would transfer the money to the said 91 accounts, Nimbargi said.

The misappropriation of funds came to light during police investigation after Ashok Tippareddy, the managing director of Nandi co-operative sugar factory, filed a case on the embezzlement of factory funds with the Babaleshwar police.

The factory management felicitated the police personnel involved in unearthing the scam.

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, ALBC Division,Almatti-586201.
Tq:Nidagundi, Dist: Vijayapur.

No:KBJNL/ALBC-DN/DM/Qutn/ALBC HW/2026-27/385
Date: 25.06.2026

INFORMATION QUOTATION NOTIFICATION

On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bangalore, the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, ALBC Division, Almatti the undersigned invites **sealed quotations** for competitive rates from Reputed Firm/Authorized Agencies for **"Overhauling, servicing and supply of spares and re-erection of dismantled pump no. 1, 2, 3 & 4 at ALBC Headwork Almatti Dam Site"**. The details and any further information can be had with the under signed office during office hours and can be obtained through e-mail, duly placing your request to ee09albc@gmail.com and Cell No.: **9035782142** on or before**07-07-2026**. Last date to receive information quotation is on or before**09-07-2026**at **5.00 PM**. The sealed quotation will be opened on **10-07-2026**at **11.00 AM** in the under signed office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KBJNL, ALBC Division, Almatti
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/180/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

ಪುರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಬೊಮ್ಮಸಂದ್ರ
ಅತ್ತಿಬೆಲೆ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಆನೇಕಲ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ–560 099
ಫೋನ್: 080–27834655, E-Mail: itstaff_ulb_bommasandra@yahoo.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಪುಕಾಬೊ/ಆಶಾ/ಸಿಆರ್/26/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22.06.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಬೊಮ್ಮಸಂದ್ರರವರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999 & 2000 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ವಿವರಗಳಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕವಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಹತೆ ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ಇಚ್ಛೆಯುಳ್ಳ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು/ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರು ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. "ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಶಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ಮತ್ತು ಕಛೇರಿ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **www.bommasandratown.mrc.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.	ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
1	DMA/2025-26/SE5304/CALL-2	43,67,000/–	87,340/–
2	DMA/2025-26/SE5408/CALL-2	92,48,000/–	1,84,960/–

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಶೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳು: **1.** ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30.06.2026ರ 16:00 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ. 2.** ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01.07.2026ರ 16.30 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ.**

ಸಹಿ/–
ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಬೊಮ್ಮಸಂದ್ರ.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಬೊಮ್ಮಸಂದ್ರ.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/ಜಿಎ/1402/2026–27

Office of The Regional Transport Officer,
Jnanabharathi, Bengaluru- 560 110

Sl. No.: RTO/JNBT/BLR/DSA/2026-27. Date: 24.06.2026

Public Open Auction Announcement

It is hereby informed to the public that the motor vehicles mentioned below were seized by the Inspection personnel for not presenting tax paid receipts and other original documents during inspection and have been kept in the office premises for safekeeping. Drivers or owners of the vehicles or hypothecators (HPA) have not come forward with tax paid documents to the office to get the vehicles released. Since the vehicles have not got released for a long period, it is inevitable that the below mentioned vehicles from Sl. No. 01 to 12 are being auctioned in public as per Karnataka Motor Vehicles Taxation Act Section – 11 (A) and the amount credited to the Government in lieu of tax arrears and penalty. Hence this Notice is issued for public auction of vehicles.

Place of Auction: Office of The Regional Transport Officer, Jnanabharathi Campus. Date: 18.07.2026 Time: 11.00 AM.

(1) KA51D8619, PSV, 22.11.2016 **(2)** KA16B1094, MGV, 09.12.2009 **(3)** KA06A0979, MGV, 19.11.1999 **(4)** KA01AD2680, LPV, 04.04.2014 **(5)** KA02AC1590, LPV, 16.02.2012 **(6)** KA091356, LPV, 14.02.1992 **(7)** KA02C4806, LPV, 15.02.2005 **(8)** KA02AE5239, LPV, 16.02.2015 **(9)** KA03AD6138, LPV, 12.08.2016 **(10)** KA41A7487, LPV, 21.05.2013 **(11)** KA03B6664, LPV, 13.09.2004 **(12)** KA02C7301, LGV, 22.05.2005

Terms and Conditions of Auction:

1. Those interested in participating in the open auction commencing at **11.00 AM on 18.07.2026** should register their names after **10.00 AM on 17.07.2026** by submitting a D.D. for Rs. 25,000/- separately as advance E.M.D. to Regional Transport Officer, Bengaluru and can participate in the auction after registering the name and other details in TIN. **2.** The vehicles have been parked at Regional Transport Office, Jnanabharathi. Vehicles can be inspected during office hours. **3.** Successful bidders will have to pay 50% of the auction amount on the spot and pay the balance within 07 days from the date of auction and pay GST to their TIN number and take possession of the vehicle at their own cost. **4.** Bidders will have to pay the document fees, taxes etc. of the vehicle purchased. **5.** Bidders will have to pay the G.S.T. and any other taxes, fees as per rules based on the purchase value of the vehicle. **6.** E.M.D. amount will be received only in the form of D.D. from any nationalized/scheduled bank. **7.** The vehicles which are being disposed will be auctioned on as is, where is, in the existing mechanical condition. **8.** Bidders of vehicles which have not been registered/transferred will have to pay the bid amount and later pay the taxes, cess, penalty as per the original invoice along with the auction bid amount and get the vehicle registered/transferred. **9**. Bidders should compulsorily provide their photo ID, mobile number and address proof. **10.** During the auction process if the vehicle owner or hypothecator pay the tax + penalty such vehicles will be removed from the auction. **11.** Regional Transport Officer, Jnanabharathi, Bengaluru-560 110 has the authority to take decision to reject/cancel/postpone/accept any questions in the auction. For further information in this regard, officers can be contacted during office hours. Phone No.: 08023286712/13 or 9449864041.

Sd/-
Regional Transport Officer
Jnanabharathi, Bengaluru-560110.

DIPR/CP/1373/SHIRDI SAI/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department. Office of the Executive Engineer Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal. Phone & Fax No : 08539-220054 email: eemidnkst@rediffmail.com

No:EE/MI&GWDD/Koppal/PB/TP/2026-27/991
Dated:29/06/2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal invites tenders from the eligible tenderers registered civil contractors as per standard bid documents KW-3 and KW-4 on Karnataka Public procurement portal for 7 no of works pertaining to Koppal and Raichur district. The amount put to tender for the mentioned works varies from **Rs. 95.27 to 402.58 Lakhs**. The tenderers may submit tenders for the mentioned work through Karnataka Public procurement portal only. Two cover tender procedure as per rule 28 of the KTTP act shall be followed.

For more information the contractor can contact the under signed during office hours and all information regarding tenders can be had from website http:/Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. The tender documents can be downloaded from the above website address on or after **01/07/2026** Last date & time for receipt of tender is **14/07/2026** time 17.30 hours, Pre bid meeting will be held on **10/07/2026** 11.00 Hours at this office date & time for opening of technical bid **16/07/2026** time 11.00 hours, date and time for opening of financial bid **18/07/2026** time 11.00 hours (If technical bid sanction is accorded by the competent authority).

Sd/-Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal.
DIPR/Koppal/200/KSMCA/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. DIVISION, GADAG.
Phone No: 08372-238782 Fax No. 08372-237268
E-Mail : eepwdgad@gmail.com

No: EEPWDGDG PB-1 5: Different : 2026-27/1075
Dated:- 29-06-2026

Tender Notification

The Executive Engineer, Public works department. Division, Gadag invites item wise tenders from eligible tenderers of 05 work of total amount of **Rs 504.00 Lakh (** Min estimate amount: **Rs- 09.00 Lakhs** to Max Estimate **Amount: 250.00 Lakhs)** for the Different Head of account on behalf of the Hon'able Governor of Karnataka as per Standard Bid Document KW- 1, 2 and 4 through **http://www.kppp.Karnataka.gov.in/**

Work Indent No:- Part-1 35125/call-2
(a) Last Date for Clarification up to : 03-07-2026 (b) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders :08-07-2026 Noon 4.00 PM (c) Opening of Technical Bid Date:-09-07-2026 Financial Bid Date:- 10-07-2026

Work Indent No:- Part-2 36691
(a) Last Date for Clarification up to : 07-07-2026 (b) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders :13-07-2026 Noon 4.00 PM (c) Opening of Technical Bid Date:-14-07-2026 Financial Bid Date:- 15-07-2026

Work Indent No:- Part-3 36446, 36452-ST, 36408-SC
(a) Last Date for Clarification up to : 27-07-2026 (b) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders :31-07-2026 Noon 4.00 PM (c) Opening of Technical / Financial Bid Date:-1-08-2026

GST shall be paid separately as per prevailing Government Order. The increase in GST shall not be paid in the extended period of contract for which the contractor alone is responsible for delay as determined by the authority while granting the extension of time.

DIPR/GADAG/144/
2026-27/DESHPANDEPUBLICITY

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
P.W.D. Division, Gadag.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
U.R. RAO SATELLITE CENTRE
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP
HAL Old Airport Road, Bangalore - 560 017
(Phone: 080 25084156, 4184)
CORRIGENDUM - I

Sl.No	Description	Details
1	Name of work	Modification of UPS and Battery Rooms at CATVAC and AITF-1 buildings at ISITE Campus, Marathahalli, Bangalore-560037 (Civil, Electrical and Air Conditioning Works)
2	E-Tender Notice	URSC/C&MG/C/M/19/2026-27 Dated: 09/06/2026
3	Estimated cost put to Tender	₹ 24.20 Lakhs
4	Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	Extended upto 23.59 hrs on 09/07/2026
5	Last date and time for receipt of tenders	Up to 14.30 hrs. on 14/07/2026
6	Due date and time of opening of tenders	After 14.31 hrs on 14/07/2026

Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details along with Hindi version in website: **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**.

Sd/-
Group Director, C&MG, URSC

BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Doddanektindhi Division Zone-1, ITPL, Main Road, Opposite to Pheonix mall, Bengaluru-560040

No: BECC/EE/DNK/TN/02/2026-27 **Date: 30.06.2026**

Request for proposal

(Through GoK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

On behalf of Commissioner, Bengaluru East City Corporation (BECC), GBA Exectative Engineer, Doddanekundhi Division, Zone-I, invites Request For Proposal from interested persons/firms those who have done similar type of work For Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC) for the works given in the table through KPP portal.

S.N.	Name of the work
1	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for the work of Comprehensive Development of Roads and Drains and other allied works In ward no. 43-Doddannekkundi, 42- PriyadarshIni, 44-Ashwathnagar, 37-Kundalahalli, 36-liharath Alkya, 35-Garudacharpalya in Doddanekkundi Division of Mahadevapura Constituency, (Annexure-2, Sl No.21 to 26). **Value of main work:** Rs.980.00 Lakhs. (excluding G.S.T). **EMD :** Rs.25,000/-.

Calendar of events: 1) Last date and time for uploading pre bid quires : 04.07.2026 at 3:00 PM. 2) Pre-bid Meeting at office of undersigned : 04.07.2026 at 4.00 PM. 3) Last Date & Time for receipt of Tenders : 09.07.2026 up to 4:00 PM. 4) Opening of Technical bid : 10.07.2026 at 4:30 PM. 5) Validity of Tender 90 Days from last date of receipts of Tender.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Doddanektindhl, Division Zone-1

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಎಂಡೊಕ್ರೈನಾಲಜಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಸ್ವಾಯತ್ತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ)
ಹಳೇ ಮದ್ರಾಸ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಇಂದಿರಾನಗರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560 038
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: +91 8025283013, +91 8024492900
ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: www.kierbengaluru.in

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕೆಐಇಆರ್ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯು ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿಗಳ ಸರಬರಾಜಿಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ಸೇವೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಹ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ ಮೂಲಕ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

Sl. No.	Tender Notification No. & Date :	Subject
1	KIER-ACCT/116/2026-ACCT-KIER-BLR Date: 30.06.2026.	Supply & Installation of 500 mA DR Machine (Turnkey)/Call-2.
2	KIER-ACCT/66/2026-ACCT-KIER-BLR Date: 30.06.2026.	Lifting of Condemned, Obsolete, Unserviceable Medical Equipment, Furniture.
3	KIER-ACCT/139/2026-ACCT-KIER-BLR Date: 30.06.2026.	House keeping services on service contract Basis to KIER.
4	KIER-ACCT/140/2026-ACCT-KIER-BLR Date: 30.06.2026.	Security services on service contract Basis to KIER.

ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡುವ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭದ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **01.07.2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.00** ಗಂಟೆಯಿಂದ. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **15.07.2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 04.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ.** ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **17.07.2026 ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.** ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಕಛೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಂಗೀಕರಿಸುವ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರವು ಭಾಗಶ: ಅಥವಾ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ/ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ/ ರದ್ದುಗೊಳಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಕೆಐಇಆರ್, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/ಜಿಎ/1403/2026–27

HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA
Bengaluru-560001

No. HCRB/DEA-6/2026 (RPC) **Date: 30.06.2026**
HCRB/DEA-7/2026 (KKR)

BRIEF NOTIFICATION

Online applications are invited by High Court of Karnataka for filling up of 28 posts of Data Entry Assistant [21 posts under Residual Parent Cadre including 06 backlog posts and 7 posts under Kalyana Karnataka Region including 05 backlog posts]. Pay scale of the said post is **Rs. 25,500/- Rs.81,100/-.** The Last date for submission of online application is **28.07.2026 till 11.59 p.m.**

Eligible candidates are required to apply only through 'Online' by visiting the official website of High Court of Karnataka at **judiciary.karnataka.gov.in.** No other means / mode of applications will be accepted. The Notification and other details are available in the above mentioned portal and in the official Gazette (E-Gazette) of Karnataka dated **29.06.2026.**

Sd/- (M. CHANDRASHEKAR REDDY)
REGISTRAR GENERAL ,
HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA, BENGALURU.

DIPR/CP/1395/Zen/2026-27

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Co-ordination & Planning, 9th Cross, 9th Main, Jayanagar 2nd Block, Bengaluru-11.

No. EE/CO&P/E-PROC Tender/03/2026-27 Date: 30.06.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Only through GoK KPP Portal - e-Auction)

The Executive Engineer, Co-ordination & Planning, BSCC, Bengaluru on behalf the Commissioner, BSCC invites tenders through e-Auction for the works given below.

Sl.No.	Name of the Work
1	Renting of Gents Toilet & Ladies Toilet for Ground Floor at Old, Complex Building, Jayanagara Shopping Complex, 4th Block, Jayanagar.
	Area : **91.15 Sq.Ft.** Contract period : 5 years or 60 months. EMD : **Rs. 1,00,000/-.**

Calendar of Events: **(1)** Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in (2)** Last date for submission of tender documents : **10.07.2026. (3)** Commencement of Live e-Auction Bidding : **13.07.2026 , from 11.00 am to 2.00 pm.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Co-ordination & Planning, BSCC

GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY
Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests & Tree Officer, GBA, Annexe-3 Building, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002.

No: DCF/PR/401/2026-27 **Date: 29-06-2026**

WITHDRAWAL OF PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the Citizens residing in Bengaluru that the Executive Engineer, Market Division, Bangalore Development Authority, Bengaluru, had submitted an application to the undersigned for Removal of 184 Trees standing inside the premises of the existing HSR Layout, BDA Complex, Bengaluru for Re-Development and Construction of BDA Shopping Complex at HSR Layout on PPP Model. The undersigned had issued Public Notice No. **DCF/PR 234/2026-27 Dated: 26-05-2026** for inviting Suggestions / Objections / Comments for the same.

Now that the Respected Commissioner, BDA has submitted a letter No. **BDA/Comm/168/2026-27 Dated: 04-06-2026** to this Office wherein he has directed the concerned Officers to Re-design the plan for the Construction of BDA Shopping Complex at HSR Layut without removal of any trees.

In view of the above, the Public Notice which was issued on **26-05-2026 from this Office will be withdrawn.**

Sd/- Tree Officer
& Deputy Conservator of Forests, GBA.

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer (Building Maintenance & Transport), Ground Floor, Annex Building-2, GBA & BCCC HO Premises, NR Square, Bengaluru–560002

No.: EE(B.M&T)/TEND/03/2026-27 **Date: 30.06.2026**

CORRIGENDUM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(TWO COVER SYSTEM) (Through KPPP Portal)

The Executive Engineer (Building Maintenance & Transport), BCCC invites proposals through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal from eligible bidders for **"Rent, Operate and Maintain Ground Floor Shop No. 18/2, Corporation Building, Residency Road, Bengaluru".**

All interested bidders shall submit their Technical and Commercial / Financial bids electronically through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).

The tender schedule is as mentioned below:

Subject	Rent, Operate and Maintain Ground Floor Shop No. 18/2, Corporation Building, Residency Road, Bengaluru.
Tender Notification No.	**EE(B.M&T)/TEND/03/2026-27**
Date from which bid document is ready for download through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal of Government of Karnataka (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)	**01.07.2026, 11:00 a.m.**
Date of Pre-bid meeting and venue	**04.07.2026 at 3:00 p.m. Office of the Executive Engineer (B.M&T), Ground Floor, Annex Building-2, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560 002**
Last date for seeking clarification if any	**09.07.2026 at 3:00 p.m.**
Last date and time for uploading of tender in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal platform	**09.07.2026 upto 5:00 p.m.**
Date and time of opening of tenders: Technical bid & Technical Evaluation	**10.07.2026 at 5:00 p.m.**
Date and time of opening of tenders: Commercial bid of Technically qualified bidders (if possible)	**Immediately after the uploading of Technical bid evaluation**
Contact person for queries	**Executive Engineer (Building maintenance & Transport) Mobile: 9480688211, Email: eemped.bbmp@gmail.com**
Place of opening of tenders and address for communication	**Office of the Executive Engineer (B.M&T), Ground Floor, Annex Building-2, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560 002**
EMD Amount	**Rs. 5,00,000 Rs. 1,00,000/- paid in KPPP Portal & Rs. 4,00,000/- Through Bank Guarantee**

Note: Completed tender shall be uploaded through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal system only in the manner described under instructions to Tenderers of RFP Documents on or before the last date & time stipulated.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Building Maintenance & Transport), Bengaluru Central City Corporation

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BANGALORE EAST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Whitefield Division, Immadihalli Main Road, near Govt Polytechnic College, Bengaluru-560066

No.BECC/EE/WF/TN/02/2026-27 **Date: 30-06-2026**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (Only through KPPP Portal)

GBA Executive Engineer Whitefield Division, invites Request for Proposal from interested persons/firms those **who have done similar type of work for Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC)** for the works given in the table through KPP Portal. Tender documents may be downloaded from GoK KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** under login for Contractors.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work/Value of main work in lakhs Excluding GST/ EMD amount in Rs./Period of Completion
1	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for the work of Comprehensive 1 Development of Roads and Drains and other allied works in ward no. 40-Varthuru, 50-Gunjuru, 39-Hagaduru, 38-Whitefield, 33-S.M Krishna in Whitefield Division of Mahadevapura Constituency. (Annexure-2, Sl No.33 to 41). Value of main work: **Rs.980.00.** EMD: **Rs.25,000/-**. Period of completion: **09 months.**

Time Schedule/Calendar of events:
1. Last date & time for uploading pre bid queries: **06.07.2026 at 3.00 PM**
2. Pre-bid Meeting at office of undersigned: **06.07.2026 at 4.00 PM**
3, Last Date & Time for receipt of Tenders: **10.07.2026 up to 4.00 PM**
4. Opening of Technical Bid: **13.07.2026 at 4.30 PM**
5. Validity of Tender: **90 days from last date of receipts of Tender**

Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned on all working days between 10.00 AM to 5.30 PM.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Whitefield Division, BECC

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Senior Assistant Director (Education), Mini Vidhanasoudha, Yelahanka, Bengaluru

No.: N.C.C.S.A.D.(E)/PR/32/2026-27 **Date: 30.06.2026**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Subject: Regarding Short Term Tender Inviting for procuring essential bags for Kindergarten to Pre University Colleges of North City Corporation for the 2026-27 academic year.

With reference to the above subject, Short Term Tender Inviting quotations from reputable suppliers / shopkeepers to get current market rates for supplying of essential **Bags** to the students studying in 09-Kindergarten, 02-Primary, 06-High School, 06-Pre University College and 01-Degree Colleges of Bengaluru North City Corporation for the year 2026-27. The details given below:

Sl. No.	Details of Materials to be Purchased	Details of the Sections to be Purchased	Number of Students Studying	Number of Materials Required
1	Bags	From Kindergarten to Degree College only	5641	For each Student

Terms and Conditions:
1. It has been instructed to submit the price and specification for the total number of materials required for students studying in 09-Kindergarten, 02-Primary, 06-High School, 06-Pre University College and 01- Degree College of the Corporation.
2. The prices quoted for the said materials shall be inclusive of GST.
3. Last date for submission of Tender: **08.07.2026 up to 5:00 P.M.**
4. Tender rates will be opened on **09.07.2026 at 5:10 P.M.** Interested parties may participate.

Sd/- Senior Assistant Director (Education), Bengaluru North City Corporation

11-year-old dies after tree falls on school bus

MUMBAI, DHNS: An 11-year-old boy died, and four others were injured when a tree fell on a school bus carrying a dozen children in the Chembur area of Mumbai on Tuesday.

The fire brigade and other agencies immediately rushed to the spot and evacuated all 12 students, including the two who were trapped in the school bus.

Of them, 4 students sustained minor injuries, while one boy was seriously injured. The injured students have been admitted to Zen Hospital.

The critically injured student, Vihan Shrivastav, died in the hospital. He was struck in the bus because of the impact.

Mumbai Mayor Ritu Tawde met with the victims' families.

NH blockade: Kuki-Zo protest march sparks clash in Manipur

IMPHAL, PTI: More than 500 people, belonging to the Kuki-Zo community, clashed with security personnel during a protest march in Manipur's Kangpokpi district on Tuesday, demanding withdrawal of blockades and restoration of supplies of essential items, police said.

The agitators wanted to proceed towards Kanglatongbi in Imphal West district, where a blockade was held allegedly by Naga groups, but they were stopped at Gamgiphai in Kangpokpi.

"The clash broke out when the Kuki-Zo protesters were stopped. Security personnel had to fire tear gas shells to disperse the mob," a senior officer said.

The Kuki-Zo protesters were stopped as the Naga people in and around Kanglatongbi assembled in the area, raising concerns over a possible face-to-face confrontation between the two groups, he said.

The protest march came a day after the Kangpokpi district Committee on Tribal Unity's 48-hour ultimatum to remove unauthorised checkpoints on national highways had expired.

CoTU alleged that the authorities had failed to ensure the resumption of free movement of essential commodities, including medical supplies, along National Highway-2 within the stipulated period.

After dry June, IMD forecasts below-normal rainfall in July

94% of average rainfall likely for the month

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

After a vastly deficient June, India may experience "below-normal" monsoon in July as well, with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Tuesday forecasting less than 94% of average rainfall for the month.

While generous showers are expected in the first seven to 10 days of July, the situation is likely to worsen in the second half of the month, which traditionally accounts for one-third of the southwest monsoon's total rainfall.

"July is our rainiest month. The first 10 days of rainfall will be helpful for sowing. But the monthly average rainfall over the country as a whole in July is most likely to be below normal — less than 94% of the long period average," said Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, director general, meteorology, at the IMD. The average July rainfall for the country is 280.4 mm.

For most of India, July rainfall is expected to be below normal, except in parts of Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and the Northeast.

June ended as the fifth driest since 1901, with only good showers in the last two days. But rainfall over east and northeast India was the lowest in 126 years.

June 2026 ended with 40% deficient rainfall. For comparison, June 2009 was the worst in the last 126 years with 47% shortfall. June 2014 ended with a 44% deficiency.

A deficient June, however, doesn't necessarily mean a deficient monsoon season, says an IMD official.

Since 1951, there have been 26 years when June rainfall was below normal, but only eight such years ended with a below-normal southwest monsoon season.

As many as 15 such years had normal monsoon rainfall, and three witnessed excess rainfall.

Mohapatra said no low-pressure system developed in June, unlike other years when two or three such systems usually form. Apart from El Nino, another factor dragging down June rainfall was an unfavourable Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) — a giant ball of clouds, rain and winds that moves west to east across the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

The MJO acts like a giant remote control for the monsoon, and depending on its location, it can help or hurt the rain.

The IMD chief said that while typhoon activity over the West Pacific was above normal, most systems recurved north-northwest towards China, Japan and Korea, leading to subdued low-pressure formation over the Indian Ocean region.

While El Nino has negatively impacted the monsoon so far, the Indian Ocean Dipole — a temperature see-saw between the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal that can counter El Nino — remains neutral so far.

A girl wades through floodwaters in Assam's Dhemaji district on Tuesday. More than 46,000 people have been affected by the floods across the state. AFP

PATCHY RELIEF

- Relief likely in the first 10 days with early July showers
- Second half to worsen; key sowing period at risk
- Most states likely to receive below-normal rainfall
- Few exceptions in parts of Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Telangana, AP, Maharashtra and Northeast

23 Oppn parties write to CJI over SIR, EC conduct

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Twenty-three Opposition parties and an independent MP on Tuesday shot off a joint letter to Chief Justice Surya Kant, appealing to the "conscience of the judiciary" on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), the "biased" conduct of the Election Commission, and the "manipulation" of electoral outcomes. The I.N.D.I.A bloc initiative received a boost as DMK and AAP joined them.

Congress was quick to claim that the Opposition parties are "firmly" anchored in "SURE – Solidarity, Unity and Resistance", taking a cue from Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi's remarks at the June 8 meeting of the I.N.D.I.A bloc, attended by 22 parties and Independent MP Kapil Sibal, where a decision to send the joint letter was taken.

Opposition sources said the four-page letter, which evolved through "teamwork", appealed to the "conscience of the judiciary", as when everything else fails, Indian democracy looks towards the judiciary. The letter, they said, provided examples from states where the election machinery, as well as the SIR, was used against the Opposition, besides highlighting the "biased conduct" of the Election Commission and the "manipulation" of election results.

SENIOR OPPOSITION LEADER

"The letter is centred around the idea that when everything else fails, Indian democracy looks towards the judiciary. It appeals to the conscience of the judiciary...The judiciary has to see what is happening in the country today. When everything else fails, who do we turn to?

While the letter was not released to the public, Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh said the joint letter, "now signed by 23 political parties plus one Independent", had been sent to the CJI. Trinamool Congress Rajya Sabha floor leader Derek O'Brien posted on X, "Good going from I.N.D.I.A. And yes, AAP, DMK also signed the joint letter to the CJI."

The DMK and AAP joining the initiative after exiting the Opposition bloc came as a booster for the Congress-led I.N.D.I.A bloc ahead of the Monsoon Session of Parliament. The DMK has been angry at the Congress for ditching it for Vijay-led TVK in Tamil Nadu after the recent elections and had refused to attend the I.N.D.I.A meeting. AAP had left the bloc in 2024

Champat Rai denies charges in Ram Temple fund theft case

Congress delegation to Ayodhya 'under house arrest'

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

In the eye of the storm following the alleged embezzlement of offerings at the Ram Temple, Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust general secretary Champat Rai has denied any role in the fund theft and instead blamed one of his former aides, even as a Congress delegation to Ayodhya was on Tuesday detained and placed under house arrest.

According to sources, Rai, who was questioned by the SIT on Monday, said he had no role in the embezzlement and he took action as soon as he became aware of it.

Sources said, Rai told SIT members that he never expected Ramashankar Yadav alias Tinnu Yadav, a former driver and one of the accused, to embezzle the offerings.

On the appointment of several people to the temple management, Rai reportedly said that it was not his individual decision and that other Trust members were also involved in the process.

Under attack from the Opposition as well as a section of seers, Rai, along with Trust members Anil Mishra and Gopal Rao submitted their resignations, which are yet to be accepted.

The Trust, which was scheduled to meet on July 11 to discuss the resignations, has advanced the meeting to July 6.

Sources said, the SIT would be questioning other key Trust members in the next few days.

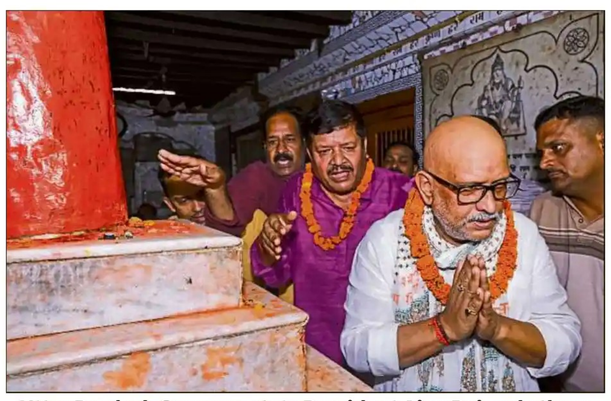
Sources also said that the SIT has launched a probe into the assets and bank transactions of the accused. Eight people, who were tasked with the responsibility of counting the cash, have been arrested in the case.

Meanwhile, Arjun Dev, the Radio Maintenance Officer (RMO) at the Ram Temple, whose responsibility included monitoring the CCTV cameras and wireless system and whose role has also come under the scanner, was shunted out. Dev has been posted in Ayodhya for the past 17 years.

A Congress delegation led by state party president Ajai Rai was on Tuesday not allowed to proceed to the Ram Temple and placed under house arrest at a local university guest house.

Police sources said that the delegation had plans to march to the Ram Temple Trust office.

Congress workers later staged a demonstration in the town in protest against their detention, and scores of them were taken into custody by the police.



Uttar Pradesh Congress state President Ajay Rai and others offer prayers at Hanuman Temple, in Ayodhya. PTI

Modi should own responsibility for Ram Temple 'theft': Congress

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Congress on Tuesday described the embezzlement of donations at Ram Temple in Ayodhya as "Maha Paap" (cardinal sin) and said Prime Minister Narendra Modi should own responsibility for it the way he claimed credit for "shilanyas to pran pratishtha".

Party's Social Media and Digital Platforms Chairperson Supriya Shrinate said the "theft of donations" was an attack on the faith of Hindus all over the world and demanded that the SIT report should be made public, claiming that there are "clear attempts to protect" the Trust and the RSS.

"Who performed the Ram Mandir Bhoomi Puja? Who inaugurated the Ram Mandir? Who hoisted the flag in the Ram Mandir? Who established the Ram Mandir Trust? (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi will take all the credit, so why the silence on donation scams?" she asked.

Monsoon session of Parliament likely from July 20

NEW DELHI, PTI: The monsoon session of Parliament is likely to commence on July 20 and is expected to go on for three weeks, officials said on Tuesday.

The Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs (CCPA) is yet to take a final decision.

Usually, monsoon and winter sessions have 20 sittings and are spread over four weeks. But there have been precedents of shorter sessions.

The monsoon session comes after the ruling BJP's victories in West Bengal, Assam and Puducherry.

The rebellion in TMC and Shiv Sena (UBT) will also play out in the forthcoming session.

A decision by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on the demands of 20 TMC and six Shiv Sena (UBT) MPs seeking recognition as separate groups is awaited.

In the Rajya Sabha, after newly elected and re-elected MPs took oath, the political numbers further tilted in favour of the ruling NDA.

The last session ended in disappointment for the government as a Constitution amendment bill to implement reservation for women in legislatures in 2029 and increase the number of seats of the Lok Sabha was defeated in the Lower House.

The government is now redrafting the bill to possibly increase the LS seats of all states uniformly by 50%. The population-linked increase in seats has been a major concern for southern parties.

Kerala school declares holiday over dog scare

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: A government school in Kerala's Thrissur district was forced to declare holidays on Monday and Tuesday owing to a stray dog scare.

The government school at Choondal panchayat declared a holiday after a student was earlier bitten by a stray dog on the way to the school. Several stray dogs were present on the school premises, with one even giving birth there. Hence, the risk of students and teachers suffering dog bites was high, which prompted the school to declare holidays.

"Almost all dogs were caught, and only one or two couldn't be traced. The school could hopefully resume from Wednesday," panchayat president said.

PM Modi speaks to Iran Prez, stresses freedom of navigation in Hormuz

NEW DELHI, PTI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a telephonic conversation on Tuesday with the President of Iran, Masoud Pezeshkian, who briefed him on the recent developments in West Asia and the way forward.

The prime minister said he reiterated in his interaction with the Iranian leader the importance of freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz for India and the world.

Modi welcomed the understanding reached, and reiterated India's consistent position that all issues must be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy, a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said.

Modi reiterated the need for continued efforts to ensure lasting peace and stability in the region, and for safeguarding freedom of navigation and commerce.

During the telephonic conversation, the President of Iran briefed Prime Minister Modi on the recent developments in West Asia and the way forward, the statement said.

Modi also wrote on 'X': "Spoke with the President of Iran, Dr Masoud Pezeshkian, on the recent developments in West Asia. Welcomed the progress made in the negotiations and expressed hope that continued efforts will lead to lasting peace in the region. Reiterated the importance of freedom of navigation in the Hormuz Strait for India and the World."

Earlier, Iranian President Pezeshkian had invited Prime Minister Modi to the burial ceremonies for Iran's late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei to be held next week.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Iran President Masoud Pezeshkian. PTI FILE

Bihar Guv to attend Khamenei's funeral

According to reports, the government is planning to send Bihar Governor Ata Hasnain and Minister of State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita to the ceremonies as representatives of India. The burial ceremonies will be held from July 5 to 9.

Low visibility on Parandur airport project status puts TVK to test

FROM THE GROUND

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
EKANAPURAM (TAMIL NADU), DHNS

Parandur in Kanchipuram district — the site chosen for a greenfield airport — was C Joseph Vijay's first protest arena as the TVK leader. The ambitious project is now turning out to be Chief Minister Vijay's biggest challenge.

He is caught between his promise to Ekanapuram villagers not to acquire their farmland and houses, and the Tamil Nadu capital's yearning for a swanky airport that would give the state a vantage point among investors.

According to environmentalists, the project will submerge at least 12 lakes, 20 ponds and tanks, and several irrigation tanks.

Though Electricity Minister C T R Nirmal Kumar recently said there was no compromise on TVK's stand vis-à-vis the project, there is no government statement on this.

This has led to confusion among residents of the villages whose land has already been acquired by the state-owned Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation.

Reports that an industrial estate is being considered on the already acquired land if the airport project is formally withdrawn have caused unease among many farmers.

While some villagers plan to protest, seeking greater compensation for their land if an industrial estate comes up, others oppose such a move.

"I will file a case seeking higher compensation as it will be used for industries to make huge money," said Subramani from Parandur village who received Rs 2.5 crore for 4.5 acres of his land.

Ekanapuram has been the epicentre of protests since 2022 as the village faces a complete wipeout. Protests in other villages fizzled out over time.

"The whole of Ekanapuram will disappear from the Tamil Nadu map. We don't want to be refugees in our own district and state," 65-year-old Madhavan, who owns a house and nine acres of land, told *DH*.

G Subramanian, one of the forces behind the protests, alleged that the project was being "pushed" to monetise land parcels that several politicians and top bureaucrats purchased in the region in anticipation of the project.

The village is pinning its hope on TVK and the new chief minister to save the precious land. On the other hand, those who have already parted with their land want a clear picture on the status of the project. Adding to this is the risk of antagonising the industry bodies if the project is scrapped.

Now, the TVK government is on a sticky wicket and it is only to be seen how it manages to end this predicament.

A view of Ekanapuram village, which will be wiped out if the airport project becomes reality. DH PHOTO

Airport factcheck

Total estimated cost ₹ 27,400 cr

Total land requirement 5,746 acres

1,005 houses houses to be demolished of which 605 are from Ekanapuram village

Airport to handle 10 crore passengers annually

There will be two runways, a cargo village and an aerocity

Why Parandur?

- Easy accessibility to the new Chennai-Bengaluru Expressway
- Easy accessibility to Thirumalpur railway station
- DMK had planned to extend Metro network from Ponnamalle to Parandur

4 held in Jaipur paramedic exam 'cheating racket'

RAKHEE ROYTALUKDAR
JAIPUR

Four persons, including academicians, were arrested in Jaipur on Tuesday in connection with a cheating racket at an exam centre for the Rajasthan paramedical examination.

The episode unfolded at Prabha Devi Memorial College, which was one of the centres.

Jaipur police said among the arrested was Krishna Kumar Saini, the head of the paramedical department at S Karan College, Jhunjhunu, who had allegedly planned to facilitate "mass cheating" by allowing at least 45 candidates to sit separately at the centre.

The 45 candidates could not clear their first-year exam and struck a deal with the accused persons for Rs 5.5 lakh each, the police said, adding that they received a tip-off on June 27.

The candidates were made to sit separately in tents so that their activities would not be captured on CCTV cameras in the rooms.

The other arrested are Shankar Lal Jat, a lecturer in the radiology department at S Karan College; Ramkrishna Mandiwal, who is associated with Prabha Devi Memorial PG College; and Devkrishna Mandiwal, the administrator at Prabha Devi College.

The Rajasthan Paramedical Council, which conducts the examination, cancelled the exam centre at the college with immediate effect.

GOVT ROADMAP

PM reviews reform agenda with top bureaucrats

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday held a detailed interaction with senior government secretaries, focusing on key reform priorities to boost economic growth and improve citizens' lives while advancing India's journey towards self-reliance.

During the meeting, Modi emphasised two central themes — deregulation and other reforms aimed at enhancing 'ease of doing business' and 'ease of living', and the promotion of 'Aatmanirbharta' (self-reliance).

Secretaries from various ministries and departments presented the steps their organisations are taking to translate the Prime Minister's vision into concrete outcomes.

Officials said the discussions highlighted ongoing reform measures, sector-specific challenges, and future strategies to improve governance and service delivery.

Modi stressed the need for a whole-of-government approach, urging officials to break departmental silos and adopt integrated planning.

The Prime Minister particularly encouraged greater use of the PM GatiShakti platform for better inter-departmental coordination and informed decision-making.

He also called upon the secretaries to ensure that government schemes deliver a tangible impact on the lives of ordinary citizens.

Secretaries made detailed presentations on the functioning of their ministries, progress on various reform initiatives, and people-centric measures already underway, sources said.

This meeting comes nearly a month after Modi addressed the Council of Ministers, where he outlined a broad roadmap for reforms over the next decade.

Agencies widen security net beyond Amarnath Yatra routes

Terrorists may target soft civilian locations instead of pilgrimage

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

Tents set up by locals for pilgrims' convenience ahead of the annual Amarnath Yatra, at Pahalgam. PTI

THREAT MATRIX

- Threat matrix recalibrated after April 2025 Pahalgam attack
- PoK unrest seen as driver of fresh terror push
- Security expanded to tourist hubs, transit points, markets

Pakistan-backed terror organisations could target soft civilian locations instead of the Amarnath Yatra itself, prompting security agencies to widen surveillance beyond the traditional pilgrimage routes, *DH* has learnt.

The assessment marks a shift in this year's threat matrix following the April 22, 2025, Pahalgam terror attack on tourists and amid continuing unrest in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

According to a senior intelligence official, agencies believe terrorist organisations like Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad could look beyond the heavily guarded pilgrimage routes. "They are desperate and can strike softer civilian targets to generate maximum national and international attention," he told *DH*.

"It is not necessary that they will target the pilgrims. They can strike anywhere that will make a big headline. The idea is to create maximum impact," the official said, requesting anonymity.

He said there was no specific intelligence pointing to an imminent attack or identifying a particular target. "This is a threat assessment based on multiple inputs. We cannot afford to lower our guard," he added.

PoK unrest

The assessment also comes against the backdrop of continuing unrest in PoK. Protests over inflation, governance issues and shortages have repeatedly turned violent, leaving dozens dead in clashes.

According to the intelligence assessment, Pakistan could seek to shift attention from the situation in PoK by attempting to engineer a major incident in Jammu and Kashmir through terror groups.

The assessment appears to have influenced this year's security planning.

During a high-level review on June 12, Union Home Minister Amit Shah directed security agencies to ensure "robust security arrangements" not only along the yatra routes but also at "other major tourist destinations".

For the second consecutive year, helicopter services have been suspended and the entire pilgrimage corridor has been declared a no-fly zone.

Security has accordingly been expanded beyond the twin routes of Pahalgam and Baltal to tourist destinations, transit hubs, markets and areas with a sizeable presence of tourists and non-local workers.

Authorities have intensified anti-drone measures, convoy rehearsals, area domination exercises and real-time monitoring. More than 670 companies of the Central Armed Police Forces have been deployed for the yatra beginning July 3.

Security officials said preventing another mass-casualty attack has become a strategic priority after Pahalgam, with any major strike during the Yatra period carrying the potential to sharply escalate tensions between India and Pakistan.

Govt retains small savings interest rates for ninth quarter

NEW DELHI, PTI: The government on Tuesday left interest rates unchanged for various small savings schemes, including PPF and NSC, for the ninth straight quarter, beginning July 1, 2026.

"The rates of interest on various Small Savings Schemes for the second quarter of FY 2026-27, starting from July 1, 2026, and ending on September 30, 2026, shall remain unchanged from those notified for the first quarter (March 1, 2026, to June 30, 2026) of FY 2026-27," the Finance Ministry said.

As per the notification, deposits under the Sukanya Samriddhi Scheme will attract an interest rate of 8.2%, while the rate on a three-year term deposit remains at 7.1% in the current quarter.

The interest rates for popular public provident fund and post office savings deposit schemes have been retained at 7.1% and 4%, respectively.

The interest rate on Kisan Vikas Patra will be 7.5%, and on National Savings Certificate will stay at 7.7% for the July-September quarter.

SC junks PIL seeking CBI probe into Bihar encounter

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to entertain a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking a CBI probe into the alleged police encounter that led to the death of 28-year-old activist Bharat Bhushan Tiwari in Bihar's Bhojpur district on June 17.

A bench dismissed the plea filed by advocate Vishal Tiwari, while granting him liberty to approach the HC.

"No, sorry. Not entertaining this. Liberty given to approach HC," the bench observed.

During the hearing, the bench questioned the petitioner's locus standi in the matter. "Who are you to file this case? Sorry!" the judges remarked.

Tiwari replied that he was filing the petition in public interest.

In his PIL, Tiwari sought registration of an FIR against the police personnel involved in the killing and the constitution of an independent expert committee, headed by a former SC judge, to inquire into the extrajudicial killing.

He argued that such encounters were becoming increasingly common and urged the court to intervene to protect the right to life. Bharat Bhushan was killed in the encounter. His family has claimed that he had surrendered and discarded his weapon before being shot by the police.

Notice to Raj govt on Asaram's plea

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Tuesday issued notice to the Rajasthan government on a plea by self-styled godman Asaram seeking suspension of his sentence during the pendency of his special leave petition challenging the Rajasthan HC judgment upholding his conviction in the 2013 Pocso case.

Senior Advocates appearing for Asaram, argued that their client's health was poor and that he was suffering from various ailments.

On their submissions, the bench said that if there is any further deterioration in Asaram's medical condition, the petitioner would be at liberty to mention the matter for urgent listing, thereby keeping the door open for expedited consideration on medical grounds. The court directed that medical facilities extended to petitioner be continued.

NHAI empanels IITs for review of major highway bridges

NEW DELHI, DHNS: In a major step towards enhancing the safety, quality and longevity of India's National Highway network, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has decided to empanel Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and other leading technical institutions for independent proof-checking of hydraulic studies and designs of major bridge structures.

The initiative, applicable to all new highway projects, aims to ensure that major bridges, engineered for a service life of 100 years or more, receive thorough independent technical scrutiny before construction begins.

Around 12 IITs, including IIT Delhi, IIT Bombay, IIT Roorkee and IIT Kharagpur, along with several other premier institutions, have already expressed their willingness to partner with NHAI in the initiative.

Under new framework, these institutions will conduct comprehensive reviews covering, engineering drawings, construction methodologies, geotechnical investigations and hydraulic studies.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

HONEY, WHEN WOULD YOU LIKE TO START SPRING CLEANING?
HOW ABOUT IN JULY?
THAT'S IN THE SUMMER, DEAR, NOT THE SPRING
SPRING, SUMMER, TOMATO, TOMAHTO
3-23

Hagar The Horrible

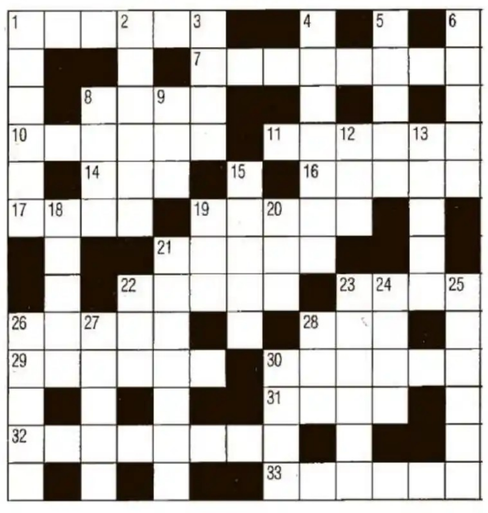
Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

IT IS DAWN ON THE WESTERN FRONT...
A LOW FOG COVERS THE AIRFIELD... ALL IS QUIET...
WHOP!!
WHAT'S A PAPERBOY DOING ON THE WESTERN FRONT?
SCHULZ

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12450



CRYPTIC

ACROSS

1 Thanks for managing to mend the bike (6)
7 Given praise which no longer rang? (8)
8 In travel documentation, five is one! (4)
10 Flattened by Jack, perhaps? (6)
11 He's of service in getting a horse out (6)
14 Name for one half of Kent (3)
16 You'll get the gist of what he sings (5)
17 Some transgressions in society (4)
19 Dressed, perhaps mostly for bed (5)
21 Supported, as in a plot (5)
22 Did a farm job, so got hitched (5)
23 Soft stuff that hums terribly (4)
26 It may be collectively interesting, whether or not to us (5)
28 A brief engagement is good for Joe (3)
29 Team Athers could have played for? (6)
30 There may be money in it (6)
31 It's a blend, this wine? (4)
32 Originated something briefly fashionable therein? (8)
33 He possibly enters in earnest, we're told (6)

DOWN

1 That well-known fugitive from Latin (6)
2 Absorbs fluid, including ink (6)
3 Drunken dame's drink? (4)
4 Went round to put a chap on the roster (7)
5 A clear scheme includes one (5)
6 Unreasonably riled by a slacker (5)
8 Useless letter to Ian, perhaps (4)
9 View from the bishop's window (3)
12 Angry, getting one's dander up somewhat? (3)
13 Jottings, not a part of an essay (5)
15 Historically the bloomers of war? (5)
18 Matter of contention when one lives with a woman (5)
19 Like recruits to a regiment at West Point? (3)
20 Where to lie when you live a lot (3)
21 Footwear kicked off? (7)
22 A man of class, I reckon (3)
23 John organised a lot in the Ministry (6)
24 It tastes better than it looks (4)
25 Show anger when success is not allowed (3,3)
26 Teasing of a flier at some length? (5)
27 Silly try at being irascible (5)
28 Light conversation? (3)
30 Edward starts madly to paddle! (4)

EASY

ACROSS

1 Light creamy dessert (6)
7 Direct hit! (5-3)
8 Leg, for example (4)
10 Loves deeply (6)
11 Dose (6)
14 Harden (3)
16 Girl's name (5)
17 Evaluate (4)
19 Bereaved wife (5)
21 Bravery award (5)
22 Of Cuba (5)
23 Bard (4)
26 Assumed name (5)
28 Person's residence, slang (3)
29 Edible seed (6)
30 Turn up (6)
31 Act of lending (4)
32 Gemstones (8)
33 Nervously irritable (2,4)

DOWN

1 Angora (6)
2 Private evening party (6)
3 Recedes (4)
4 Booze (7)
5 Lawful (5)
6 Republic in SW Arabia (5)
8 Missing (4)
9 Encountered (3)
12 Stitch (3)
13 Magic servant (5)
15 Of tides (5)
18 Abundant (5)
19 Spider's trap (3)
20 Karate expert (3)
21 Melodious (7)
22 Feline (3)
23 Exhibit or flaunt (6)
24 Norse god (4)
25 Dozen (6)
26 Narrow way (5)
27 Bury (5)
28 In favour of (3)
30 Too (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12449

CRYPTIC

ACROSS: 1, Elmer 6, Skips 9, Ca-RA-van 10, Light 11, Molly 12, All-ow 13, Seventy 15, Gem 17, P-rod 18, Patina 19, SN-e'er 20, CH-ance 22, I-NT-O 24, Eel 25, Fainter 26, Smal-l 27, Strip 28, Cin-dy 29, Tearoom 30, Adder 31, L-earn.
DOWN: 2, Lo-it-er 3, Echoed 4, Rat 5, Ra-LL-y 6, Samovar 7, Know 8, Pollen 12, Atone 13, Spice 14, Vocal 15, GI-ant 16, Manor 18, Petal 19, Sca-MP-er 21, He-a-Ted 22, In time 23, Tender 25, Flora 26, Site 28, Col.

EASY

ACROSS: 1, Tapas 6, South 9, Find out 10, Spurn 11, Tipsy 12, Focus 13, Halibut 15, Sue 17, Arid 18, Beaten 19, Sofas 20, Prison 22, Sear 24, Yet 25, Miserly 26, Acres 27, Verge 28, Venus 29, Erratic 30, Study 31, At sea.
DOWN: 2, Appear 3, Afraid 4, Sin 5, Idiot 6, Sutures 7, Otis 8, Tissue 12, Futon 13, Happy 14, Licit 15, Steer 16, Entry 18, Basis 19, Sorcery 21, Recent 22, Select 23, Allure 25, Metal 26, Aged 28, Via.

◆ SU-DO-KU-6946 ◆

2							6	5
		5		8				
1			6		9			
	9			1				4
4			7		2			6
8				3			2	
			1		4			9
				2		7		
9	1							8

hard

SOLUTION TO 6945

3	2	9	8	4	7	1	6	5
6	1	8	5	2	3	4	9	7
4	5	7	9	6	1	2	3	8
8	4	5	1	3	6	7	2	9
9	7	6	2	5	4	8	1	3
1	3	2	7	8	9	6	5	4
7	6	1	3	9	8	5	4	2
5	9	4	6	7	2	3	8	1
2	8	3	4	1	5	9	7	6

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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							1st Letter Triple
S1	V4	N1	O1	S1	I1	I1	
L1	E1	F4	O1	S1	S1	S1	Triple Word Score
C3	H4	N1	N1	C3	E1	L1	2nd Letter Double
S1	O1	A1	R1	P3	A1	E1	
N1	C3	O1	M3	E1	Y4	O1	

RACK 1 RACK 2 RACK 3 RACK 4 RACK 5

PAR SCORE 150-160
by JUDD

FIVE RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

C3	O1	U1	N1	T1	E1	R1	RACK 1 =	77
L1	A1	S1	A1	G2	N1	A1	RACK 2 =	74
M3	A1	R1	K5	E1	T1	S1	RACK 3 =	89
L1	I1	S1	T1	E1	E1	S1	RACK 4 =	71
							JUDD'S TOTAL	311

PAR SCORE 205-215

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HTACY

AREFT

INIOCC

UESDOX

I wonder if we could measure its presence in the air.
There has to be more here than just the minerals.
12/19
ONE QUALITY THAT HELPED MARIE AND PIERRE MAKE SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES WAS ---

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

"_____ - _____"

(Answers Tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: IRONY UPEND BUTTER JARGON
Answer: They'd been driving for hours, so when they saw the motel, they were — READY TO TURN IN

HITORI-3400

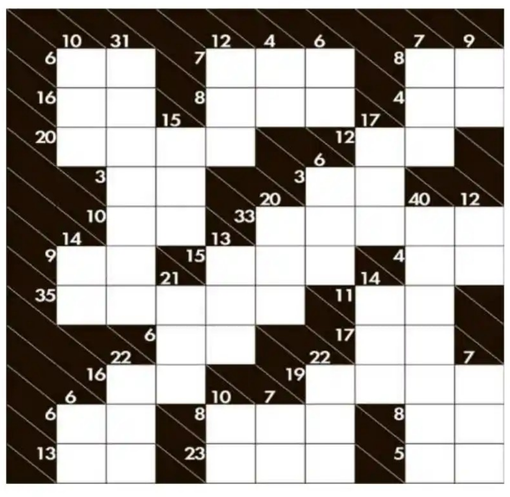
8	1	3	1	7	2	5	1
1	1	8	3	4	4	6	5
5	4	4	7	8	3	4	6
2	4	6	3	1	4	7	7
6	5	1	8	5	6	4	7
4	7	4	2	6	1	4	8
7	4	5	4	7	8	3	7
4	6	7	2	2	5	8	1

SOLUTION TO 3399

8	1	2	3	■	6	4	5
1	■	7	■	8	2	■	3
■	2	8	4	3	■	6	■
4	6	■	2	■	8	3	1
3	8	6	5	7	1	■	2
■	5	■	8	1	■	2	7
7	■	5	6	4	3	■	8
5	7	1	■	2	■	8	6

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3400



SOLUTION TO 3399

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3963

2	6							■
4	■			6			3	
		■				■	1	
6			■	4	■			
		9	8	■		7		
		8	■		■	4	2	
		■			7	■	8	
	■				4		■	
8	1						6	■

SOLUTION TO 3962

6	5	1	8	4	9	7	3	2
9	8	4	7	3	2	6	5	1
2	7	3	1	5	6	9	8	4
5	3	7	2	1	8	4	6	9
1	4	9	6	7	5	8	2	3
8	6	2	3	9	4	5	1	7
3	9	6	5	2	7	1	4	8
7	1	5	4	8	3	2	9	6
4	2	8	9	6	1	3	7	5

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

US top court strikes down campaign spending limits

Supreme Court sides with Vance and other Republican challengers

WASHINGTON, REUTERS

The US Supreme Court has again struck down campaign spending limits, this time rejecting federal restrictions on coordinated spending between political parties and their candidates on free speech grounds.

The ruling comes as major Republican committees head towards the November midterm elections with a significant cash advantage over their Democratic counterparts.

Siding with Vice President JD Vance and other Republican challengers, the court ruled 6-3 on Tuesday that a cap on the amount of money parties can spend on campaigns with input from candidates violates the US Constitution's First Amendment protections against government abridgement of freedom of speech.

Conservative Justice Brett Kavanaugh, who authored the ruling, wrote that "constitutional text, history and precedent establish that the political-party coordinated-expenditure limits violate the First Amendment." The court's six conservative justices were in the majority, while its three liberal justices dissented.

The court overruled its 2001 decision in a case arising from Colorado that addressed the same issue. Tuesday's ruling determined that developments in campaign finance over the intervening decades, including shifts in the court's jurisprudence, had eroded the rationale underlying that prior ruling. The Supreme Court issued its ruling with the November midterm elections approaching, as President Donald Trump's fellow Republicans seek to retain control of Congress.

A big win: Trump

Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform after the ruling: "The Supreme Court just took restrictions off political spending! A BIG WIN FOR REPUBLICANS and, more importantly, The First Amendment!"

Liberal Justice Elena Kagan, in a dissent joined by the court's two other liberal members, said the decision "rewrites the rules", allowing donors to circumvent existing contribution limits and "enabling a party to serve as an alternative checking account for a campaign."

"As a result, a donor will be able to give a party as much as half a million dollars (as compared to the $7,000 he can give directly to the candidate) to cover the candidate's bills. And the candidate can seek just such a donation," Kagan wrote. "So the court ushers back in the same opportunities for quid pro quo corruption that the contribution limits were meant to check." Quid pro quo is a Latin term meaning a favour for a favour.

Ban on transgender athletes in women's sports upheld

The US Supreme Court on Tuesday upheld state laws barring transgender athletes from competing in girls' and women's school sports, delivering a major victory to conservatives in one of the country's most fiercely contested culture-war battles, AFP reports from Washington.

The decision allows Idaho, West Virginia and more than two dozen other Republican-led states to enforce measures requiring students to compete in public school and college teams according to their sex assigned at birth rather than their gender identity.

Indus treaty remains valid, binding and operative: Pak

ISLAMABAD, PTI: Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar on Tuesday said Pakistan rejects India's decision to revoke the Indus Waters Treaty, adding that it "remains valid, binding and operative".

India suspended the 1960 treaty with Pakistan in April last year as part of retaliatory measures against Islamabad over the Pahalgam terror attack in February, which killed 26 people.

"No party can unilaterally suspend or terminate its obligations under a treaty that contains no such provision," Dar claimed while addressing a seminar on the Indus Waters Treaty in Islamabad, Radio Pakistan reported.

He said the Indus Waters Treaty is not merely a water-sharing arrangement, but a "vital instrument of regional peace, stability and cooperation".

The minister further said the shared waters "must remain a bridge between nations, guided by cooperation, dialogue and respect for international law for the benefit of the present and future generations".

The Indus Waters Treaty was signed on September 19, 1960, after nine years of negotiations with the sole aim of managing issues related to cross-border rivers.

Starmer boosts budget for UK military

MAIDENHEAD (UK), AFP: Britain plans to spend almost £300 billion ($397 billion) over the next four years to modernise its armed forces to counter rising threats, outgoing Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced on Tuesday.

More drones, uncrewed vehicles and an upgrade to the UK's nuclear deterrent form part of Starmer's long-awaited 10-year Defence Investment Plan (DIP), which he described as his "legacy".

The proposals see an extra £15 billion being pumped into defence spending up to 2030, the year by which UK intelligence has suggested Russia could attack a NATO country.

Ukrainian tycoon with Russia link attacked

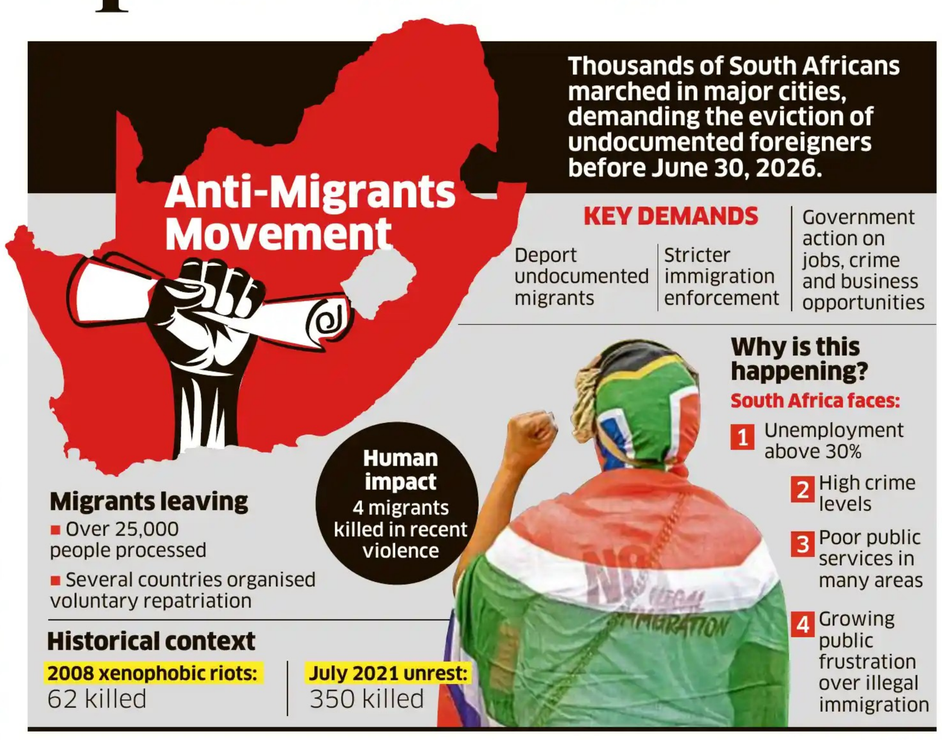
MONACO, AP/PTI: An explosion at an apartment building entrance in Monaco wounded a Ukrainian tycoon with ties to Russia and two other people, the chief prosecutor in the Mediterranean country said on Tuesday.

A search was on for a suspect who fled on foot after the blast late Monday, Prosecutor Stéphane Thibault said. Reports identified Ukrainian construction tycoon Vadym Yermolaiev as being among the injured. He renounced his Ukrainian citizenship nearly a decade ago, and he was targeted by Ukrainian sanctions in 2023 for ties to Russia. A woman and a child were also hurt.

Anti-migrant protests sweep South Africa

Nationwide demonstrations followed weeks of tensions, violence

DURBAN, AFP


Anti-Migrants Movement
Thousands of South Africans marched in major cities, demanding the eviction of undocumented foreigners before June 30, 2026.
KEY DEMANDS
Deport undocumented migrants
Stricter immigration enforcement
Government action on jobs, crime and business opportunities
Why is this happening?
South Africa faces:
1 Unemployment above 30%
2 High crime levels
3 Poor public services in many areas
4 Growing public frustration over illegal immigration
Human impact
4 migrants killed in recent violence
Migrants leaving
Over 25,000 people processed
Several countries organised voluntary repatriation
Historical context
2008 xenophobic riots: 62 killed
July 2021 unrest: 350 killed

Thousands of people marched across South Africa on Tuesday to demand the departure of undocumented foreign nationals after a weeks-long campaign that has sent thousands fleeing and claimed four lives.

Police were out in force for nationwide protests, which capped escalating demonstrations led by citizen groups that had set an unofficial June 30 deadline for foreigners without papers to leave. There were isolated incidents of tension, including stone-throwing and confrontations near Johannesburg, where security forces escorted a handful of foreign nationals away from a mob.

Several people were arrested for looting, and soldiers were deployed in the cities of Johannesburg and Durban overnight, authorities said.

Crowds of demonstrators brandishing sticks and flags moved through central Johannesburg throughout the day while most shops remained shuttered, workers stayed home and transport hubs were quiet. In the southeastern city of Durban, the Zulu heartland, protesters turned out in traditional warrior attire, carrying spears, whips and shields, with some draped in leopard skins.

Demonstrator Brightness Gumbi, 48, said she was frustrated that she could not afford to rent premises for her business while foreign nationals were able to run shops. "The illegal foreigners manage to pay it because they sell drugs to our people," she told AFP. "I hope through these demonstrations our president will hear our cries and enforce stricter laws."

Mass deportation

One of the continent's wealthiest countries, South Africa is a magnet for migrant labour while grappling with an unemployment rate above 30%, high crime and a breakdown in services in many areas.

Groups mobilising against illegal immigrants accuse them of taking jobs and services, which analysts say amounts to scapegoating foreign nationals for government failures.

At least two Mozambicans, an Ethiopian and a Malawian have been killed in recent weeks of protests, according to police. A foreign national was found dead on Tuesday after he allegedly jumped from the eighth floor of a building in Durban, apparently fearing he was being chased, police said.

As tensions mounted, several African governments — including Nigeria, Malawi, Ghana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique — organised voluntary repatriation flights and buses for their citizens. More than 25,000 people had been processed for departure in recent weeks, authorities said on Monday.

Protesters gesture towards people they believe to be undocumented foreigners in Johannesburg on Tuesday. AFP

US downplays Indo-Pacific Command renaming row

WASHINGTON, PTI: US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor dismissed the row over the renaming of the Indo-Pacific Command, saying the "name on the letterhead" does not matter and that people should instead look at what America is actually doing.

Addressing the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum Leadership Summit on Monday, Gor said India still conducts more military exercises with the US than any other country and has regular bilateral visits of defence officials.

Gor's remarks came in the wake of a row over dropping 'Indo' from the Indo-Pacific Command. Established in 1947, the US Pacific Command is among the oldest unified commands of the US that extends from the west coast of the US to India's western border.

During US President Donald Trump's first term, the Pacific Command was renamed as Indo-Pacific Command, citing the growing importance of India in the Indo-Pacific region. Earlier, this month the US restored the original name of the unified command.

"I just want to mention something because a lot of individuals made hay over a name change. I don't care what name is on a letterhead, but look at what the United States is actually doing," Gor said.

"Yes, the name changed; we're still there. India still has more exercises with the United States than any other country by far. Every single month there's something happening, whether it's Indian troops coming here or whether it's US troops going into the region," the US envoy said.

Hopes fade in Venezuela quake search

LA GUAIRA, REUTERS

Rescue teams in Venezuela were losing hope on Tuesday of finding more survivors of the twin earthquakes that struck the country last week, following hours of exhausting work searching for victims beneath the rubble of collapsed buildings.

Rescue teams from Ecuador and the US halted operations early on Tuesday in Macuto, a town in La Guaira state — the area hardest hit by the June 24 earthquakes — after more than 40 hours of work, when they stopped receiving responses from a mother and her three children trapped beneath a nine-storey building.

"In the end, we believe the days have already passed and that what we will find now is death," said Major Jorge Montanero, leader of the EQ11 team from Guayaquil, located on Ecuador's Pacific coast. "Unfortunately, things haven't developed favourably," he said as he stood amid rubble after cutting through four concrete slabs of the building in an effort to locate the four trapped victims.

At the morgue, staff led families through an in-person identification process, an official at the site, who was not authorised to speak to the press, told Reuters. Families can then obtain death certificates and cremation permissions, the official added. The official, who said they are from La Guaira and had lost multiple family members in the quakes, had no estimate of the number of bodies already handed over to families or the number awaiting identification.

Some 59,000 buildings were damaged or destroyed by the twin earthquakes — which struck just seconds apart with magnitudes of 7.2 and 7.5 — according to NASA estimates.

A child receives emergency attention after being rescued in Caracas, Venezuela, on Tuesday. REUTERS

Chinese billionaire gets 30-yr jail in US for fraud

NEW YORK, AP/PTI: A self-exiled billionaire Chinese business tycoon once believed to be among China's wealthiest men was sentenced on Monday to 30 years in a US prison for a massive financial fraud.

Guo Wengui, who fled China a decade ago and reinvented himself as a US-based Communist Party critic, was sentenced by US District Judge Analisa Torres in Manhattan.

Before his sentencing, Guo said he fainted on Monday and was returned to jail despite doctors recommending hospitalisation, vomiting repeatedly on the way back.

US envoys in Qatar for Iran war deal talks

DUBAI, AP/PTI: Two US envoys arrived in Qatar on Tuesday for talks with mediators about the implementation of an initial deal to end the war in Iran, an official said.

The visit by Steve Witkoff, US President Donald Trump's special envoy for West Asia, and Jared Kushner, his son-in-law, comes after a weekend of crossfire in the Persian Gulf over efforts to reopen the Strait of Hormuz to shipping traffic.

The envoys will not hold direct negotiations with Iranian diplomats while in Doha, Qatar's capital, Majed al-Ansari, a spokesman for Qatar's Foreign Ministry, said. Instead, mediators are currently acting as intermediaries in the talks, which will not involve any high-level officials, he added.

Such indirect negotiations have taken place before between Iran and the US. However, the two previous rounds of talks collapsed amid the 12-day war Israel launched against Iran in 2025 and the recent Iran war.

"We're not expecting any high-level Iranian officials at the moment, but as I said, the technical meetings are ongoing... and they haven't stopped since then," al-Ansari told journalists at a weekly news conference.

Iran was also sending a delegation to Qatar this week. Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said on Tuesday that Iran had no plans for a meeting with the American side at any level in the coming days.

Buffett skips donation to Gates Foundation

REUTERS: Warren Buffett is skipping his usual mid-year multibillion-dollar donation to the Gates Foundation as he waits to see the findings of a review by the foundation of its ties to late sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, The Wall Street Journal reported on Monday.

The foundation has been mired in controversy due to Chairman Bill Gates' association with Epstein. A release of emails in January by the US Justice Department also showed communication between Epstein and the Gates Foundation's staff.

Gates Foundation CEO Mark Suzman commissioned an external review to assess the foundation's past engagement with Epstein.

The findings are expected in the summer. Buffett is delaying his donation decision until later in the year, possibly until he releases his Thanksgiving letter, the WSJ report said.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Nadiem Makarim (R), Indonesia's former education minister and founder of ride-hailing company Gojek, attends a court hearing in Jakarta on Tuesday. He was sentenced to 10 years in prison on graft charges. AFP

Largest digital camera begins decade-long survey of universe

▸ The largest digital camera ever built is starting to capture images of unseen corners of the universe, AP/PTI reports from New York.

The Vera C. Rubin Observatory has officially begun its cosmic survey, meant to capture swathes of the sky in more depth and detail. Perched on a Chilean mountaintop, the telescope will point its eye at the southern sky for the next 10 years, taking hundreds of images per night. Researchers hope Rubin's observations will help them take a better census of the universe, mapping billions of stars in the Milky Way and billions more galaxies beyond it. It takes pictures quickly and will grab images of the same areas of sky multiple times, allowing scientists to glimpse fainter objects that previously eluded detection. "We're going to see large numbers of scientists across the world working with this data set, studying the universe in a way that they haven't been able to before," said Phil Marshall, the observatory's deputy director of operations. Rubin released its first images last year, including colourful shots of the Trifid and Lagoon nebulae located thousands of light-years from Earth.

Hindu student assaulted in B'desh

▸ A Hindu student, who also works as a temple priest, was allegedly held captive and assaulted for money by unidentified persons in Bangladesh, PTI reports from Dhaka.

Subhash Deuri, a 25-year-old law student at Jagannath University in Dhaka, was targeted by unidentified persons late on Monday, according to Bdnews24 media portal. It was not immediately clear if Deuri was targeted because of his faith. Deuri was later found unconscious on the street in Old Dhaka area by his friends on Tuesday, after which he was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Mohammad Faruk, chief of the police outpost at DMCH, said he was admitted to hospital in critical condition.

Police use water cannon in Budapest's Heroes' Square during extreme heatwave on Tuesday. AFP

Landslide in jade mine kills 5

▸ Monsoon rains triggered the collapse of slag heap at a disused Myanmar jade mine, killing five people scavenging for gem scraps and leaving around 15 more buried missing, AFP reports from Yangon.

Myanmar has a huge unregulated mining sector and northern Kachin state is the world's largest source of jadeite -- considered auspicious in many Asian cultures and hugely lucrative in neighbouring China. Factions fighting in Myanmar's post-coup civil war control many mines, using profits to fill their coffers while impoverished locals toil underground or scrounge for leftovers to make a living. "Around 20 freelance jade scavengers were buried when the heap gave way" late on Sunday in Hpakant.

UK to deport 45,000 refugees

▸ More than 45,000 foreign criminals and failed asylum seekers will be removed over the coming decade and refugees will be made to pay back accommodation costs under the UK's immigration reforms, PTI reports from London.

In a series of policy pitches this week, Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood said "thousands more foreign criminals and illegal migrants who have no right to be here" will be removed following "significant expansion" of detention capacity. Under plans she has tabled in Parliament, asylum seekers will be ordered to pay around 10,000 pounds through funds at their disposal or in instalments once they start earning to cover United Kingdom state-funded living costs.

Former German chancellor Angela Merkel talks to journalists during the unveiling of her portrait by French-German artist Jeremie Queyras at the Bode Museum in Berlin on Tuesday. AFP

Biz Bytes

Kotak buys Deutsche Bank wealth business

BENGALURU, DHNS: Kotak Mahindra Bank entered into a definitive agreement to acquire Deutsche Bank's retail banking, affluent private banking and wealth management business in India, marking an expansion of its presence in affluent and SME segments.

The business includes around Rs 29,000 crore in loans, Rs 16,000 crore in deposits and Rs 10,500 crore in assets under management. It serves about 1,50,000 customers and has a workforce of nearly 1,000.

The transaction is expected to close by September 2027, subject to regulatory approvals, including clearance from the Competition Commission of India (CCI), and other conditions.

Ashok Vaswani, Managing Director and CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank, said, "This transaction aligns well with our focus on the affluent and SME segments. It is a strong strategic fit and makes sound commercial sense."

CCI clears Birla-led RCB buyout

NEW DELHI, PTI: Fair trade regulator Competition Commission of India (CCI) on Tuesday cleared the acquisition of IPL franchise Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) by a consortium of Aditya Birla Group, The Times of India Group, Bolt Ventures and Blackstone in a Rs 16,660 crore all-cash deal.

In March this year, United Spirits Ltd (USL) announced the sale of IPL franchise RCB in a Rs 16,660 crore all-cash deal to the consortium.

CCI said it has approved the proposed deal.

Financial system susceptible to geopolitical tensions: RBI

Finmin report flags risks to growth from poor monsoon

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Though headwinds from the West Asia conflict are receding with the signing of an interim peace deal between the United States and Iran, the Indian economy and the financial system continue to remain susceptible to geopolitical tensions and associated shocks, RBI said on Tuesday.

"Exchange rate volatility may rise if oil prices increase due to the delayed normalisation of supply chain disruptions and additional demand to replenish inventory," the RBI said in its latest edition of the Financial Stability Report.

"A sharp correction in global equity markets, particularly if driven by a reassessment of corporate earnings growth and elevated valuations in AI-related stocks, could spill over to domestic markets," it added.

However, the central bank noted that the peace deal in West Asia provided tailwinds to the Indian economy.

"The interim peace deal has laid the foundation for cessation of this conflict and normalisation of supply chains, which could provide tailwinds to growth," it said.

In the foreword to the half-yearly report, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said the central bank remains alert to the evolving external and domestic risks.

"The Indian economy and the financial system have demonstrated remarkable resilience despite facing external shocks of significant magnitude. Strong growth, low inflation, healthy balance sheets of financial and nonfinancial firms and ample buffers have helped preserve macro-financial stability," Malhotra said.

"Nevertheless, we remain alert to evolving external and domestic risks and are committed to further strengthening the guardrails that protect our economy and financial system from potential shocks," he added.

Meanwhile, in its Monthly Economic Review, the Union Finance Ministry flagged the risks to the economy from uneven monsoon rainfall, emerging El Nino conditions and geopolitical uncertainties.

"The weak progress of the southwest monsoon has weighed on kharif sowing, and the monsoon rainfall deficit is a concern. Among the many things India needs to build buffers for in the coming years, water may be at the top of the list," the ministry said.

While the report, released by the Department of Economic Affairs, claimed that overall the Indian economy continues to exhibit resilience, emerging signs of moderation in industrial activity, along with evolving inflationary pressures, demand closer attention ahead.

"While easing oil prices and improving global supply-chain conditions may help alleviate some external pressures, uncertainties surrounding the monsoon and geopolitical developments in West Asia continue to pose downside risks to the growth and upside risks to the inflation outlook," it said.

RBI REVELATIONS

Global risks remain
India still exposed to global tensions despite the US-Iran peace deal

Oil & markets are key concerns
Rising oil prices and global stock market fall could affect India's economy

Peace deal is positive
Easing tensions in West Asia could improve supply chains and support growth

Monsoon remains a risk
Weak rainfall and El Niño could hurt farming, growth, and keep inflation high

"The Indian economy and the financial system have demonstrated remarkable resilience despite facing external shocks of significant magnitude. Strong growth, low inflation, healthy balance sheets of financial and nonfinancial firms and ample buffers have helped preserve macro-financial stability.
SANJAY MALHOTRA, RBI Governor

US, India trade deal in final steps, says Ambassador Gor

Says Quad foreign ministers to meet in the Philippines

WASHINGTON, PTI

The US-India trade deal is in its "final steps", with only the last 1% of negotiations left to be concluded, US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor said on Tuesday, expressing confidence that the deal would soon be sealed.

Addressing the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum Leadership Summit, Gor said he was determined to agree as it would be beneficial to both nations, and it would be sealed after nearly 18 months of talks.

"We are in the final steps on this deal. Most of this deal is complete. There are a few items that remain on both sides. It's in the last 1% of that deal," he said.

The US envoy to India was bullish about the bilateral relationship and cited the personal equation between US President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which was driving the ties.

"People ask, Why is this taking so long? We've been at this for a year and a half. To put it into perspective, the European trade deal took 20 years. So no matter what, as long as we beat the European deal, I think we're in good shape. But I'm determined to bring this to a close," he said.

The US envoy said the President has very fond memories of his visit to India and still continues to talk about it.

"His (Trump's) visit last time was one of the most-remarkable visits that he continues to talk about. He holds it in a very fond place. It's an incredible thing. So, I look forward to having the President visit us back in India," Gor said.

Over the past two decades, our bilateral trade has increased from $20 billion to $220 billion. That's an incredible job, and it's also something that we're gonna take to a much higher level.
SERGIO GOR, US Ambassador to India

The ambassador also announced that the Quad foreign ministers are scheduled to meet in the Philippines in about two weeks from now.

He added that the agreement would provide greater certainty for businesses engaged in bilateral trade.

"It's also a deal that, frankly, for a lot of individuals in this room, brings stability. For those of you that trade bilaterally, it's something that's incredibly useful and helpful," Gor said.

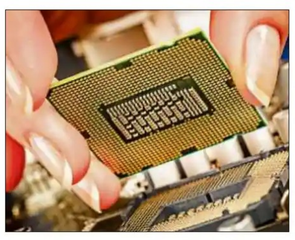
The ambassador said both governments had maintained an intensive pace of negotiations in recent weeks, citing multiple high-level exchanges between trade officials.

"As I mentioned, the trade deal, we're close to getting it done through very active negotiations. I mean, pretty much the last three weeks we've had travels back and forth. Minister Goyal was in New York... followed by Ambassador Greer in Delhi right afterwards," he said.

Gor said bilateral trade had already expanded dramatically over the past two decades and was poised for another leap.

Finmin panel clears Rs 1.25L cr outlay for India Semiconductor Mission 2.0

NEW DELHI, PTI



The expenditure department under the Finance Ministry has cleared a Budget proposal entailing an allocation of Rs 1.25 lakh crore for India Semiconductor Mission 2.0, as the country looks to advance global chip-making ambitions and cement its position as a semiconductor destination for the world, according to sources.

The approval is significant as it is higher than the outlay of Rs 76,000 crore earmarked for ISM 1.0.

Sources said the Expenditure Finance Committee has greenlit the Rs 1.25 lakh crore outlay for ISM 2.0, and that the same will be placed before the Cabinet.

The Budget, in February, had sought to give a big boost to the country's manufacturing prowess announcing, among various measures, the second edition of India Semiconductor Mission with a broad objective to promote chip manufacturing ecosystem in the country covering equipment, materials, indigenous designs and other related components.

The government has maintained that the India Semiconductor Mission 2.0 — announced in the Union Budget 2026-27 — signals India's deep commitment to chip manufacturing, with a focus on semiconductor equipment, materials, indigenous intellectual property and resilient supply chains.

Union Minister for Electronics and IT Ashwini Vaishnaw had earlier said that the India Semiconductor Mission 2.0 will prioritise indigenous chip design, productisation, attracting ecosystem partners and development of talent.

As many as 12 semiconductor manufacturing projects have been approved with an investment pipeline of about Rs 1.64 lakh crore under the India Semiconductor Mission, including one semiconductor fabrication unit, two compound semiconductor fabrication units and nine packaging units.

On the design side, 24 projects are being supported under the Design Linked Incentive Scheme, 105 companies have been assisted with advanced chip design tools and 23 design 'tapeouts' have been completed at various foundries, including at advanced nodes, reflecting India's growing depth in semiconductor design.

Terming the semiconductor advances as India's "long-time dream", a senior IT Ministry official said 12 semiconductor manufacturing projects have been approved, two of which have been inaugurated for commercial manufacture earlier this year. Another one - CG Semi - is likely to get inaugurated later this week.

"CG Semi's inauguration is scheduled for July 4...and then probably one or two more (will happen) before the end of this calendar year, so our dream of having commercial semiconductor manufacturing in the country has finally been achieved," the official said, adding that more projects are likely to come up.

India has emerged as a key player in the technology landscape and "a voice to reckon with" on standards, the official added.

OYO parent files for IPO

NEW DELHI, PTI: Travel tech company Prism, the parent entity of OYO, has filed its updated DRHP with Sebi for a proposed IPO of up to Rs 6,650 crore through a fresh issue of equity shares, with no offer-for-sale component, allowing founder Ritesh Agarwal, SoftBank and other existing shareholders to retain their stakes.

The company also plans a pre-IPO placement of securities worth up to Rs 1,330 crore, which, if completed, will be adjusted against the size of the fresh issue and cannot exceed 20% of the proposed offering.

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Division Ballari
Email: ee_pwdbellary@yahoo.com Telephone No: 08392 -266123
No: EE/PWD/BD/TS-4/F-25/2026-27/1591 **Dated: 25.06.2026**

Short Term Tender Notification (Two Cover System)

The Executive Engineer, Public works Department Division, Ballari invites the tenders for the works detailed in the table from the eligible contractors registered in Karnataka Public Works Department, through Karnataka public procurement portal. Two cover tender procedure as per KTPP Act shall be followed. The tender documents can be downloaded through the website https:kppp.karnataka.gov.in. For any additional information the tenderers may contact the office of the undersigned during office working hours. **TABLE**

Sl No	Details of Works	Amount of Estimate (Rs. in Lakhs)
1)	PWD/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT36024	100.00
2)	PWD/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT36407 (Work Reserve for ST Category)	81.43
3)	PWD/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT36067	61.77
4)	PWD/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT36012	50.00
5)	PWD/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT36476	90.00
6)	PWD/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT37198	200.00

Note : Any changes either in tender dates or any other conditions and also re-tender, tenderers can view in KP Procurement Portal. No Separate Tender notification will be published in the News paper in this regard.
1)Venue, Date and time of Pre Bid Meeting for the works: **30.06.2026 at 11.00 AM in the office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Ballari.**
2)Last dates for queries (through KP-procurement portal: **14.07.2026 upto 12.00 Hours.**
3)Last date for submission of tenders through kp-procurement portal: **15.07.2026 upto 16.00 Hours.**
4)Date and time of opening of Technical Bids: **16.07.2026 at 16.30 Hours in the office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Ballari**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
DIPR/Ballari/2026-27/KSMCA/RO No/285 **PWD Division, Ballari.**

Centre extends deadline for filing appeals before GST appellate tribunal

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Centre on Tuesday extended the deadline for filing appeals before the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) by one month to July 31, giving taxpayers additional time to submit pending cases.

The decision came after various stakeholders flagged issues in the tribunal's portal.

"The government has extended the due date in view of the recent representations from various stakeholders, highlighting technical difficulties due to rush to file appeals on the GSTAT portal," the Union Finance Ministry said in a statement.

The original deadline for filing the appeal before the GST appellate tribunal was June 30, 2026. This deadline was notified on September 17, 2025.

Although the June 30 deadline was announced well in advance, the Finance Ministry noted that the filing activity accelerated sharply in the final weeks.

In the last 15 days alone, 30,000 appeals were filed, with daily volumes peaking at 5,500 appeals, it said.

"The government has extended the due date for filing of appeals before the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) under Section 112(1) read with Section 112(3) to 31.07.2026," the Finance Ministry said.

"Taxpayers are advised to plan their appeal filings well in advance and not wait until the deadline," the ministry added.

The GST Appellate Tribunal serves as the first judicial appellate forum for taxpayers seeking to challenge orders issued by GST authorities after the disposal of their first appeals.

Unique usernames: WhatsApp unveils major privacy upgrade

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Meta-owned WhatsApp has announced a major privacy upgrade with the introduction of usernames, allowing users to connect and message each other without sharing their phone numbers.

The messaging platform on Monday said users can now reserve unique usernames ahead of a wider rollout later this year. Once fully-launched, people will be able to find and message others using only their chosen handles, addressing a long-standing privacy concern for many users.

"Starting this week, you can reserve a username to use later this year when we launch this feature," WhatsApp said in a blog post.

The move is designed to make the app safer and more convenient, particularly for group chats, first-time connections, and interactions with new acquaintances. Users will have the option to keep their phone numbers hidden when messaging someone for the first time via a username.

To reserve a username early, users on the latest version of the app can go to Settings > Account > Username. WhatsApp has also introduced a built-in username generator to help users select an available handle.

CRITICAL SUPPLY

India plans to add strategic fuel reserves after Iran war shock

BLOOMBERG

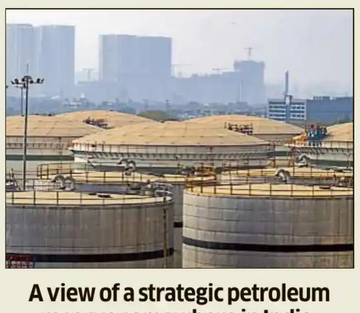
India plans to build strategic reserves of crude, LPG and LNG large enough to meet as much as a month of domestic demand, as the country seeks to avoid a repeat of the supply shock created by the war in the Persian Gulf.

The oil ministry has set up a committee to study details including potential locations, operating models and the split between overground and underground storage, according to sources.

The world's most-populous nation has been one of the most impacted by the aftermath of US and Israeli strikes on Iran, including the near-total closure of the Strait of Hormuz. The crisis exposed a heavy dependence on energy imports from West Asia, but also laid bare the limits of stockpiles that should have acted as a buffer.

The oil ministry did not immediately respond to queries on the plan.

New Delhi currently has strategic crude reserves of about 39 million barrels, enough to cover around eight days of imports. That's a fraction of the amount held by Asia's other energy-consuming powerhouse — China — though inventories held by refiners and fuel retailers can together meet more than 70 days of oil demand.



A view of a strategic petroleum reserve somewhere in India.

Strategic crude storage capacity is already being expanded with underground caverns on the country's east and west coasts that will add more than double existing reserves, the people said, citing a plan that is expected to be achieved in about five years. The aim is to eventually have at least 120 million barrels, they added.

Reserves of LPG and LNG, however, are almost non-existent, due to the difficulties with storing both — LPG is stored under pressure as a liquid, while LNG has to be kept in super-cooled temperatures. Both require rigorous safety protocols to avoid leaks or explosions.

India's long-term LPG storage capacity is just about 140,000 tons, primarily in underground rock caverns on its east and west coasts and enough to meet roughly two days of national consumption, according to Bengaluru-based think tank Takshashila Institution. Although refineries and import terminals maintain additional inventories, the complexity and cost of storage means India has relied instead on continuous imports and distribution.

The oil ministry has already asked state-run oil refiners to work on boosting LPG stockpiles for emergency use, the sources said.

For gas, the picture is even more challenging, as there are currently no strategic reserves. Last year, the government had floated a draft policy that would push terminal operators to maintain an LNG storage capacity equivalent to 10% more than their normal operational requirement — volumes which would be requisitioned by the government as needed.

The LNG importers such as Petronet LNG Ltd. are already adding new storage tanks.

At the height of the Iran crisis, India was forced to ration supplies of diesel, LPG and gas, and reached out to other Asian buyers such as Japan and South Korea, which have reserves of LPG and LNG, for help managing shortfalls.

Its efforts to build a safety net — the most ambitious effort to date to shield the country from future shocks — follows others in the region, including Singapore, Taiwan and Pakistan, all planning to boost storage to bolster energy security.

Japan and India are also considering cooperating on LNG stockpiles, The Japan Times reported Sunday, citing unidentified sources. Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi could reach an agreement during talks in New Delhi this week, the newspaper said.

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No. : B.I.M.S./H.O.S.P./SUP-1/K.P.P./TENDER/CR-66/2026-27 **Date : 29-06-2026**

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Chief Account Officer cum Financial Advisor Belagavi Institute of Medical Sciences Belagavi
The Tender Invitation for Purchase of following as per K.P.P. Act 1999 & Rules 2000 in Two Cover System there under.

Sl. No.	Tender Notification	Description of Tender	Tender Value (Approximate) (Rs. In Lakhs)	Downloading of Tender Document
01	BIMS/HOSP/SUP-1/CR-25/2026-27	Retender for Purchase of Smart New Born & Maternal Monitors in OBG Department of BIMS Belagavi.	Rs. 70 Lakhs	K.P.P. Procurement Portal
02	BIMS/HOSP/SUP-1/TENDER/DRUGS (INJECTABLES)/CR-39/2026-27	Purchase of Injectables for BIMS Hospital Belagavi.	Rs. 99 Lakhs	K.P.P. Procurement Portal
03	BIMS/HOSP/SUP-1/TENDER/ DRUGS(TABS)/CR-37/2026-27	Purchase of Tablets for BIMS Hospital Belagavi.	Rs. 98 Lakhs	K.P.P. Procurement Portal
04	BIMS/HOSP/SUP-1/TENDER/IVIG &ANTIBIOTICS/CR-65/2026-27	Purchase of IVIG & Antibiotics for BIMS Hospital Belagavi.	Rs. 99 Lakhs	K.P.P. Procurement Portal
05	BIMS/HOSP/SUP-1/TENDER/DRUGS (MISC ITEMS)/CR-38/2026-27	Purchase of Miscellaneous items for BIMS Hospital Belagavi.	Rs. 96 Lakhs	K.P.P. Procurement Portal
06	BIMS/GNL-2/CR-61/KITCHEN OUTSOURCING/2025-26	Tender for providing Ready Food to in Patients for One Year to BIMS Hospital & Super Speciality Hospital, Belagavi.	Rs. 3.30 Cr.	K.P.P. Procurement Portal

The Tenderers Registered under K.P.P. Procurement Portal can refer Government of Karnataka K.P.P.P. Portal **Website : https//www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** to get detailed information about the tender & details of **EMD & Security Deposit or can Contact the Director, BIMS, Belagavi** in the working hours to get the information.
Tender inviting Authority, Tender Accepting Authority has got powers to cancel any tender or all tenders without assigning any reason.

Sd/- Director,
DIPR/Belagavi/513/Manipal/2026-27 **Belagavi Institute of Medical Sciences, Belagavi.**

TEAMS: 48 VENUES: 16 TOURNAMENT SPAN: 39 DAYS

Paraguay punch Germany's gut

4-time champs knocked out by South Americans in shootout

FOXBOROUGH (USA), AFP

Germany crashed out of the World Cup at the hands of Paraguay in the last 32 after losing 4-3 on penalties following a 1-1 draw in Foxborough on Monday.

It marks the first time that Germany have ever lost a penalty shootout at a World Cup.

Julio Enciso headed Paraguay into a shock lead before half-time, but Kai Havertz levelled for Germany on 54 minutes with his third goal of the tournament.

Jonathan Tah saw a goal disallowed after a VAR review in extra time, before Paraguay held on to shock Germany in a wild, nerve-jangling shootout as the momentum swung back and forth.

Paraguay goalkeeper Orlando Gill saved from Havertz and Nick Woltemade, but his team-mates blew two chances to win it before Jose Canale blasted in the winning spot-kick after Tah had blazed his effort over the bar.

Paraguay	Germany
1	1

Paraguay beat Germany 4-3 via shootout

It marked another premature exit for Germany who were playing in their first knockout-stage appearance since winning the 2014 World Cup.

Paraguay celebrated arguably their greatest win at the tournament, but they face the daunting prospect of running into an in-form France next should Les Bleus beat Sweden.

Julian Nagelsmann handed Deniz Undav his first start of the tournament, after the Stuttgart striker scored three times in the opening two games as a substitute.

He came in for Jamal Musiala as Nathaniel Brown returned at left-back, having missed the Ecuador loss as a precaution due to a minor injury.

Miguel Almiron was recalled by Paraguay following a one-match ban after becoming the first player to be sent off for covering his mouth during an on-field confrontation under new FIFA rules.

Paraguay coach Gustavo Alfaro had urged his players to grasp the opportunity of a lifetime, and they came close to scoring barely a minute into the game.

Junior Alonso found space at the back post from a corner but was unable to beat Manuel Neuer.

Germany's 7-1 win over Curacao in their opener offered a glimpse of their attacking firepower, but it papered over what has otherwise been an often blunt forward line.

Undav floated an effort wide as Germany struggled to break down a compact Paraguay defence, and they paid the price when they lost their shape before half-time, allowing Enciso to head home.

Paraguay recycled possession after Neuer punched clear a corner, working it out wide on the right for Matias Galarza to fizz in a cross that picked out a completely unmarked Enciso.

Remarkably, it was Paraguay's first goal in the World Cup knockout stage, having failed to score in their previous five matches, including a 1-0 defeat by Germany in the last 16 in 2002.

Jose Canale (No. 13) blasted in the winning spot-kick for Paraguay during their win over Germany via a penalty shootout at the Boston Stadium in Foxborough on Monday. REUTERS

Jose Canale. REUTERS

Norway's Erling Haaland (second from left) celebrates with his Norwegian team-mates after scoring the winner against Ivory Coast during their last-32 clash on Tuesday. REUTERS

Haaland delivers at the death as Norway soldier on

ARLINGTON (US), AFP

Erling Haaland scored a late winner as Norway set up a last-16 showdown with Brazil at the World Cup after taming the Ivory Coast 2-1 in Texas on Tuesday.

The Manchester City striker prodded in from close range, the ball dribbling in on 86 minutes for his fifth goal of the tournament.

Norway	Ivory Coast
2	1

It was the first time that Norway had won a knockout game in the history of the competition.

After an even first half that was slow to get going, Antonio Nusa fired Norway into the lead six minutes before the break with one of the goals of the tournament.

Manchester United's Amad Diallo was sent on for the Ivory Coast after an hour and was immediately in the thick of it, stopping a certain second Norway goal and then grabbing a terrific equaliser on 74 minutes.

With extra time looming, predator supreme Haaland got on the end of a cross by Patrick Berg to make some Norwegian history.

They face five-time champions Brazil on Sunday in New Jersey with the quarterfinals at stake.

A match between two physical teams was tepid to begin with at the impressive air-conditioned home of the Dallas Cowboys.

The Ivory Coast players and fans were irate just before the drinks break when the livewire Yan Diomande was brought down on the break just inside his own half.

Referee Jesus Valenzuela surprisingly did not even book defender David Moller Wolfe.

Germany's star forwards Kai Havertz (left) and Jamal Musiala endured an ordinary World Cup that saw Die Mannschaft crash out early once again. REUTERS

Calls grow in Germany for total makeover

BERLIN, AFP: Yet another World Cup failure has Germany questioning its footballing identity, with some calling for radical changes at all levels in the football-mad nation.

Germany's shock capitulation to Paraguay in the last 32 on Monday, their first-ever World Cup penalty shootout defeat, continues the four-time champions' sheer drop from the game's elite.

Germany have now been eliminated early in the past three World Cups.

Since beating Argentina 1-0 to win the World Cup in 2014, Germany have not only been unable to win an elimination match at the tournament, but they have also failed to keep a clean sheet. Calls to sack coach Julian Nagelsmann have grown, particularly with former Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp seemingly waiting in the wings.

Others, including Klopp himself, have demanded far more fundamental changes to the game in Germany.

Even with diminished expectations after a lean decade, the German press slammed Nagelsmann's side after they fell to 41st-ranked Paraguay, a team who lost 4-1 to hosts USA in their tournament opener.

Munich daily Sueddeutsche Zeitung called the result "a new humiliation", adding the Germans were "heading home with a thoroughly deserved return ticket".

On Wednesday

England vs **DR Congo** (9:30 pm)

On Thursday

Belgium vs **Senegal** (1:30 am)

USA vs **Bosnia & Herzegovina** (5:30 am)

Live on Zee5 & Unite8. All timings in IST

England have no room for error against Congo

ATLANTA, REUTERS

England have yet to hit top gear at the World Cup and after a group stage played with minimum jeopardy, a round of 32 meeting with the Democratic Republic of Congo leaves little margin for error against a side buoyed by already going further than expected. Thomas Tuchel's England topped Group L, grinding past Panama in a 2-0 win that secured first place and a simpler path in the knockout rounds on paper.

The performance level, however, remains a concern. England were held to a frustrating scoreless draw by Ghana, and laboured again against Panama for over an hour before Jude Bellingham and Harry Kane got them over the line. As the tournament goes on, others will need to step up. Since their opening 4-2 win over Croatia, England have looked short on imagination, low on attacking threat, and lacking the ruthlessness expected of title contenders.

Wednesday in Atlanta offers no room for complacency.

DR Congo ended as the highest-ranked third-place finisher, a team who came close to going out but will have emerged all the stronger after coming through. Their 3-1 win over Uzbekistan, also played in Atlanta, was a must-win match, and after going behind to an early goal, they struggled to turn things around until awarded a penalty midway through the second half. Sebastien Desabre's side played with two up front against Uzbekistan. Against England, however, they will almost certainly revert to five at the back, which they utilised in a 1-1 draw with Portugal, and 1-0 loss to Colombia.

England will likely have key midfielder Declan Rice back in the starting lineup, but problems remain at right back.

Reece James missed the Panama win with a hamstring issue, and his replacement Jarell Quansah went off with an ankle injury. Djed Spence is expected to start against DR Congo. For DR Congo, this World Cup is already a success, and a redemption for their only previous appearance.

In 1974, with the country then called Zaire, a swift exit arrived on the back of three defeats, where they failed to score a goal and conceded 14, nine of those coming in the loss to Yugoslavia.

They finally made their World Cup return, and did it the hard way, seeing off Jamaica in their inter-confederation playoff and despite their pre-World Cup preparations being affected by the Ebola crisis back home, the Congolese are still here.

England are one of the countries expected to go far in this tournament as they aim to end their 60-year wait for World Cup success, but will need to raise their intensity if they are to overcome a DR Congo side with nothing to lose.

England will hope Harry Kane (left) and Jude Bellingham continue their good work when they face spirited DR Congo in a last-32 match on Wednesday. AFP

Brazil survive a 'Real' ride in Ancelotti thriller

HOUSTON, REUTERS

Carlo Ancelotti has spent weeks warning that grit and resilience would decide a long, complicated World Cup. On this evidence, Brazil have been listening — even if, for much of the match against Japan, they seemed determined to test the theory to destruction.

One could argue this was not simply a 2-1 Brazil victory. It seemed a familiar Ancelotti production: control, wobble, self-inflicted trouble and then, when logic was packing its bags for extra time, a late act of defiance that belonged as much to the heart as to the tactics board.

Ancelotti knows plenty about long, complicated tournaments from his years at Real Madrid. His best Real sides were not always flawless, but they carried something more dangerous than perfection: the certainty that the story was never over.

The similarities were hard to miss. In 2022, Real roared back past Paris St Germain, Chelsea and Manchester City on their way to winning the Champions League, surviving situations that looked terminal until they suddenly were not.

It was not always tidy, far from that. But it was brutally effective, powered by competitive nerve, clarity in chaos and a refusal to accept the obvious conclusion. Even when it did not make sense. Brazil, for so long, had that same World Cup aura. Every four years, the tournament seemed to become their property, their stage, their natural habitat. Like Real Madrid in the Champions League, they did not merely play in it.

They occupied it. And there was always that feeling among rivals that you needed to beat them to belong. Against Japan, this team in yellow offered both sides of the Ancelotti bargain.

Brazil dominated from the start and were the better team, but they were also exposed by mistakes that felt predictable, familiar and dangerous. Danilo, a full back with Real Madrid, Manchester City and Juventus but now a centre back who turns 35 in two weeks, misplaced a simple pass as Brazil tried to build from the back. Casemiro was then unable to match a Japanese runner for speed, a reminder that experience can bring authority but not always legs.

For a while, Brazil looked trapped between their past and present: too grand to panic, too flawed to be comfortable. Yet this is where Ancelotti's teams tend to become most interesting. The Italian has never been obsessed with sterile domination. His greatest sides often live in the margins, where the game becomes emotional, messy and primal. And almost in the final move, with Japan glancing anxiously towards extra time, Brazil found their escape hatch.

Casemiro did score Brazil's equaliser, but his lack of pace was exposed by nimble-footed Japanese. REUTERS

'Dragons' Bosnia eager to douse USA's fire

IRVINE (CALIFORNIA), REUTERS

A confident United States team eyeing a deep World Cup run face a Bosnia and Herzegovina side looking to spoil the co-hosts' party in a last-32 clash in Santa Clara on Wednesday.

The US won their opening two group-stage matches to secure early qualification for the knockout rounds and will look to rebound from a last-gasp defeat by Turkey in a dead rubber in Los Angeles last week when they head north to the Bay Area.

The Americans are heavy favourites, but captain Tim Ream said they would not take Bosnia lightly after the Balkan nation beat Italy in qualifying to deny the four-times champions a place at the tournament and finished third in a group behind Switzerland and Canada.

"They're a difficult team to play against, and they're in the tournament for a reason," Ream told reporters on Monday.

"They went through a little bit of a conflict to get there and they're just a really tough team. At the end of the day, the game is going to be about us and what we're prepared to do and what need to do to advance."

Bosnia, nicknamed the Dragons, have built their campaign on defensive organisation, but Ream said the US were preparing for all scenarios.

"I don't know that we really expect Bosnia to just be defensive. We have to expect the unexpected," he said.

The US will be seeking to score first for a fourth consecutive World Cup match, hoping to ignite a home crowd behind an attack led by Christian Pulisic and Folarin Balogun.

Bosnia are captained by 40-year-old striker Edin Dzeko, widely regarded as the greatest player in the nation's history, and carry threats through physical forward Ermedin Demirovic and teenage winger Kerim Alajbegovic. Goalkeeper Nikola Vasilj has been another key figure for Bosnia, playing an important role in qualifying and in penalty shootouts, and Ream said the U.S. had placed particular emphasis on spot-kicks and set-pieces.

"We've been doing a lot of work on penalties. I won't go into that," he said with a laugh.

"That's something that we've been working on throughout the week together, even before the tournament started, so that's taken care of really."

Edin Dzeko. X

Tim Ream. AFP

TEAMS: 48 VENUES: 16 TOURNAMENT SPAN: 39 DAYS

Belgium's golden generation faces litmus test

HOUSTON, REUTERS

The last of Belgium's golden generation take a final shot at World Cup glory having come through a mixed group stage and ahead of a last-32 clash in Seattle on Wednesday against a Senegal side who have also had a topsy-turvy campaign.

Jan Vertonghen, Thomas Vermaelen, Eden Hazard and Dries Mertens are no longer part of the Belgium side, but others from the team that finished third at the 2018 World Cup remain.

That means there is experience in the squad, led by goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois, midfielder Kevin De Bruyne and striker Romelu Lukaku, but it is now or never if they are going to achieve what many thought possible, to lift the World Cup.

Belgium managed five points in Group G to finish top ahead of Egypt on goal difference, but only came to life in their final game, a 5-1 win over New Zealand.

They will hope to carry that form into the knockout stages, having had the most shots on goal in the pool stages with 73.

It will be a special occasion for Senegal-born midfielder Amadou Onana.

"I said before the draw for the group stage, 'please don't let us play against Senegal'. I would rather lose to France," he said before the tournament. "(But) playing against Senegal would really make me feel special."

Onana started the group stage stalemate against Egypt and came on in the win over New Zealand, and will be in contention to feature against the land of his birth. Senegal lost their opening two Group I fixtures to France and Norway, but a 5-0 thumping of Iraq meant they advanced to the round of 32 as one of the best third-placed teams.

Belgium will hope for Kevin De Bruyne to come good in their round of 32 clash against Senegal. AFP

Morocco work another miracle against big boys

Africans show plenty of grit to down Dutch via penalties

MONTERREY, AFP

Morocco defeated the Netherlands in a penalty shoot-out to advance to the last 16 of the World Cup on Monday after a thrilling battle in Monterrey finished 1-1 after extra-time.

Morocco goalkeeper Yassine Bounou made the crucial save to block the Netherlands' fourth penalty from Crysencio Summerville before striker Ismael Saibari stepped up to blast home the winning spot-kick that sealed a 3-2 shoot-out win.

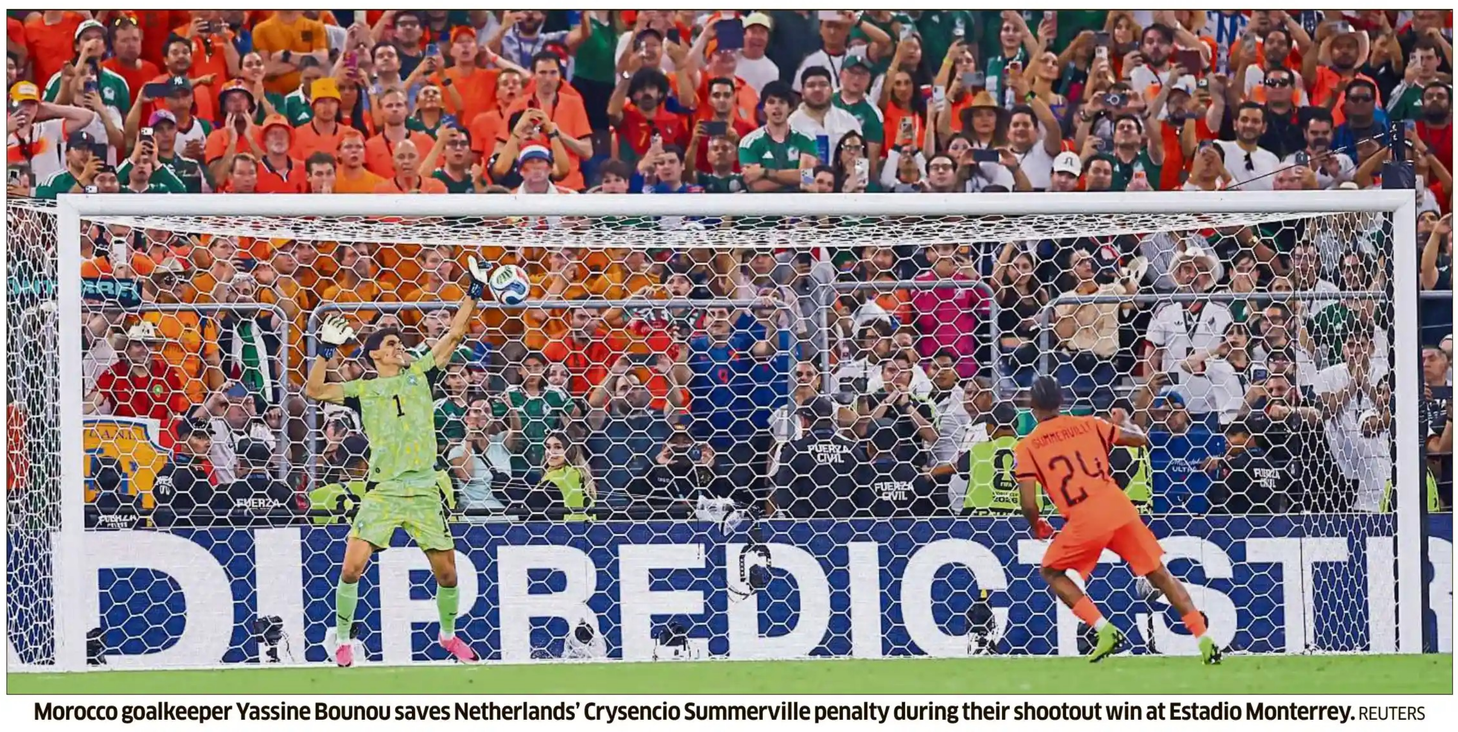
The victory sends Morocco into a last 16 clash with Canada in Houston on Saturday.

An enthralling match had gone to extra time after Issa Diop had glanced in a dramatic equaliser for Morocco in the first minute of stoppage time as the Netherlands closed in on victory.

The Dutch had taken the lead midway through the second half with a goal from Cody Gakpo, playing just days after his partner had confirmed the death of the couple's unborn son.

Liverpool forward Gakpo sank to the turf and appeared overcome with emotion as he was surrounded by team-mates in a prolonged group embrace.

But Morocco forced extra time when an unmarked Diop headed home from substitute Chemsdine Talbi's cross in injury time.



Morocco goalkeeper Yassine Bounou saves Netherlands' Crysencio Summerville penalty during their shootout win at Estadio Monterrey. REUTERS

Morocco	Netherlands
1	1

Morocco beat Netherlands 3-2 via shootout

Morocco had created the better chances of a fractious encounter, which saw players from both sides flying into tackles to test the patience of Brazilian referee Wilton Sampaio.

The Atlas Lions almost took the lead on 20 minutes when Neil al-Aynaoui glanced an Achraf Hakimi corner goalwards only to be denied by a superb reflex save from Netherlands goalkeeper Bart Verbruggen.

Verbruggen was pressed into action moments later, this time doing well to tip a vicious strike from Hakimi over the bar.

The fierce nature of the contest was on full display midway through the half when Saibari was lucky to escape sanction after elbowing Jan Paul van Hecke in the face.

The Dutch continued to enjoy plenty of possession but were unable to convert it into goalscoring chances.

Their best effort came on 44 minutes when Tottenham's Micky van de Ven uncorked a ferocious shot from the edge of the area that was tipped over by Bounou.

Van Hecke continued to find himself in the thick of the action, and after bloodying his head in a collision in the penalty area, made his presence felt with a crunching tackle that upended el-Aynaoui just before half-time.

As the half ended Saibari just failed to connect with a cross that flashed across the Dutch goal before going behind.

The drama continued into an end-to-end second half, but appeared to have tilted in the Netherlands' favour when coach Ronald Koeman brought on forward Wout Weghorst in a flurry of substitutions after the hydration break. Weghorst made an immediate impact flicking on a long ball to send Summerville bearing in on goal. Summerville crossed to Gakpo, who hurled himself at the ball to score.

The Netherlands, superbly marshalled by Gakpo's Liverpool team-mate Virgil van Dijk, appeared to be heading for victory but Diop's late header sent it to extra-time.

Morocco looked to have made the breakthrough when Soufiane Rahimi went through on goal in the 96th minute, only to be denied by a jaw-dropping save from Verbruggen.

Morocco's Ismael Saibari celebrates scoring the winning penalty in the shootout against Netherlands on Monday. REUTERS

Father-son duo chasing tennis dreams as a coach-student combo

Thanush, ranked No. 3 in U-12 AITA rankings, hopes to play in game's Major events

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Being a father of a teen, in itself, is a demanding job in today's world. Add being a coach to the parental tasks and every responsibility becomes manifold.

With zero complaints, Chandrashekar B S is embracing the twin duties to his son and student Thanush Shekar - a budding tennis player from Karnataka. And helping Chandrashekar in keeping the father and coach roles apart is his emphasis on compartmentalising and setting clear boundaries so neither himself nor the youngster take things for granted.

"Though Thanush held a racquet for the first time as a two-year-old, I only began coaching him after he turned eight. I wanted him to fall in love with tennis by himself and not force that feeling into him," says the father, who is the owner and head coach of Tennis Academy For Learning (TAFL) which he opened in 2008 in Arekere, off Bannerghatta Road, here.

"Since day one, I have insisted that he address me as sir on court and in a tennis set-up. I'm a father to Thanush only outside of it. See, emotions take over as a parent when you watch your kid play or he might expect leniency if he considers me dad while coaching. Both aren't good for either of us. So this clarity has helped for sure," explains Chandrashekar, a native of Kanbile village in Suntikoppa taluk of Kodagu district.

The instruction might seem harsh, but the two agreeing on such an uncompromising deal is showing early results.

As of June 15 on the All India Tennis Association (AITA) under-12 ranking list, Thanush is at the No. 3 spot after having enjoyed being at the No. 1 position for 34 weeks. The 12-year-old represented the country twice - first time in Sri Lanka last year at the ATF 12-and-under Team Competition (South Asia regional qualifier where he finished third) before leading the country to a gold at the ATF Asia 12&U Team Competition in Nepal this year and qualify for the finals in Singapore to be played in September. This apart, the teenager has collected 11 AITA National Series titles and two AITA Super Series trophies.

"Of all the trophies, winning the Asian U12 Junior Championships in Indore (April this year) is my favourite," offers Thanush. "I won both doubles and singles, that's why."

Adding more about his favourites, Thanush says: "My favourite shot in my game is the 'Banana Shot'. Yes, just like Rafa (Rafael Nadal). He is my favourite and now it's Carlos (Alcaraz)."

Given the claim, guessing his favourite Grand Slam isn't tough. "Of course, the French Open and also Wimbledon," Thanush stresses. While happiness takes over his voice when asked if one day he wishes to compete at the two Majors, the 'coach first and then father' Chandrasheker cautions it's a long way away.

"The journey ahead is long and tough but irrespective of the results, it makes me happy and proud that he fully enjoys and loves playing tennis. That's a big win for me as a coach and father," concludes Chandrashekar.

Thanush Shekar BC

FACT FILE

Thanush Shekar BC
Age: 12

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Currently India No. 3 in U12 category.
- Ranked No. 1 in AITA U12 section for 34 weeks
- Won 11 National Series & 2 AITA Super Series titles
- Led India to gold at the ATF Asia 12&U Team Competition in Nepal (April 2026) and qualify for the finals in Singapore (in September).

ATHLETICS

Hurdler Krishik refuses to play second fiddle

Karnataka athlete confident on punching Asian Games ticket

ADITYA K HALDER
BHUBANESWAR, DHNS

India's fastest hurdler Tejas Shirse has often maintained that if he is to scale greater heights, he must compete overseas because there is simply no one in the country capable of pushing him any further. He had every reason to believe so.

Krishik M (left) challenged Tejas Shirse's national crown in the 2026 season.

The Maharashtra athlete held the national record at 13.41 seconds until last season while his closest domestic rival's best stood at a distant 13.78 in 2025. That changed dramatically in 2026 with youngster Krishik M raising his standards.

The Karnataka athlete slashed nearly half a second off his personal best to surge to 13.44, consistently shaving around a tenth of a second with every outing. Suddenly, Tejas's grip on the national crown no longer looked unshakeable as every time the two lined up together, the battle became a genuine head-to-head contest.

The rivalry yielded its first major dividend two weeks ago at the Indian Athletics Series 9 in Ludhiana, where Tejas responded by lowering his own national record to 13.27 and qualified for the Commonwealth Games. The performance reaffirmed his status as India's hurdle king while relegating the 22-year-old from Tumakuru to the role of pursuer. But is Krishik content with playing second fiddle?

"Certainly not," the Karnataka hurdler tells *DH*. "I race to win. Second place is never enough, and I fully intend to change that. Last year, when Tejas challenged the rest of us to raise the standard, I took it personally. It became a motivation."

Perhaps that mindset stems from the sacrifices made by his father, Manjunatha. A former state-level athlete himself, he gave up a well-paying multinational job to chase the dream he could never fulfill: to see his son represent India.

"My father has been the biggest pillar of my career," says Krishik. "He didn't receive the family support to pursue athletics, so he made sure I never lacked it. Whether it was helping me through a long knee injury or taking me to the local ground every day to train despite Covid lockdown, he has always stood by me."

The 22-year-old athlete has excelled away from the track as well, graduating in engineering with distinction. This achievement is largely credit to his mother, Roopa.

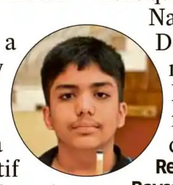
"My husband and son share an unquestionable love for athletics," says Roopa, a state government employee. "But someone also had to make sure academics weren't neglected. I always told him, 'Run as much as you want, but never at the cost of your education'."

On Friday, Krishik's parents and grandfather watched from the stands as the hurdler mounted a spirited bid to secure direct qualification for the Asian Games. He fell agonisingly short by just 0.06 seconds but remains firmly in contention for a place in the Indian team.

"It was disappointing to miss the direct qualification for the Commonwealth Games and the Asian Games," Krishik says. "But setbacks like these only motivate me to work harder. I want to leave no room for doubt that I deserve to wear the India jersey."

Karnataka's Mustafa powers into semifinals

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka's Mohammed Mustafa **(in pic)** powered into the junior boys' (U-19) semifinals of the second Heyball National Championships in Dehradun on Tuesday.



Mustafa scored a lopsided 5-2 victory over Aagam Gangwal to set up a semifinals meeting with Madhya Pradesh cueist, Aatif Ansari. The latter defeated Punjab's Hira by the same margin in the other quarterfinals.

Mustafa, India's No. 3 in sub-junior billiards, was largely untroubled in his comfortable victory. The 13-year-old had previously defeated his state-mate, Jayad Aarav, 5-2 in the pre-quarters.

In the girls' section, defending champion Natasha Chethan of Karnataka hardly broke a sweat in her 4-0 annihilation of Telangana's Leisha Reddy in the quarterfinals.

Natasha will take on Delhi's Aleina Khanna, who defeated Harleen Kaur 3-0 in another last-eight clash.

Results (Quarterfinals):
Boys: Mohammed Mustafa (Kar) bt Aagam Gangwal (MP) 5-2; Aatif Ansari (MP) bt Hira (Pun) 5-2; Aarav Sancheti (Mah) bt Karan Sheshadri (Kar) 5-3; Arnav Sharma (HP) bt S Mohd Moin (Guj) shootout.
Girls: Natasha Chethan (Kar) bt Leisha Reddy (Tel) 4-0; Aleina Khanna (Del) bt Harleen Kaur (Pun) 3-0; Gianna Rego (Mah) bt Usha Jyothi (AP) 4-2; Padmakshee C (TN) bt Angel Kamboj (Har) 4-1.

Shivamogga down Gulbarga

BENGALURU, DHNS

Shivamogga Yodhas scored a thrilling 1-run victory over Gulbarga Mystics via VJD method in the DACSS Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 in Hubballi on Tuesday.

After the target was revised to 128 in 12 overs from 181, Manish Pandey nearly pulled off a heist, slamming 36 runs in 13 balls, including 23 runs in the final over. But despite his brilliance, Gulbarga fell short of target by a run. For Shivamogga, it was a sweet revenge after having lost by a huge 95-run margin in the first round match in Mysuru. With their third victory from seven matches, Shivamogga moved to fourth on six points while Gulbarga, with their fourth loss, stay third on the same number of points.

Sujay Sateri

In the day's other game, Ritesh Bhatkal scored 66 off 39 balls to power Mysore Warriors to a 2-wicket win over Coastal Kings Mangaluru.

Put into bat first, Shivamogga posted a competitive 180/7, thanks to two key partnerships and vital contributions from the top and lower-middle order.

Wicketkeeper-batter Luvnith Sisodia once again gave Shivamogga an aggressive start, scoring a quickfire 18-ball 31. The southpaw forged a 29-ball 53 stand for the second wicket with Tushar Singh (35).

Sisodia fell four balls before the end of the Powerplay but by then he had set a good tempo and Shivamogga reached 63/2 at the end of six overs.

Brief scores: Shivamogga Yodhas: 180-7 in 20 overs (Luvnith Sisodia 31, Tushar Singh 35, Sujay Sateri 47 n.o., Yashovardhan Parantap 25; Dhruv Prabhakar 2-16) bt Gulbarga Mystics: 126/7 in 12 overs (Macneil Noronha 34, Manish Pandey 36 n.o.; Yashovardhan Parantap 2-34, Ambareesh K 2-33) by 1 run via VJD method.
Coastal Kings Mangaluru: 161/9 in 19 overs (Karun Nair 48, Siddharth Akhil 28; Vyshak Vijaykumar 2-35, Lavish Kaushal 3-32) lt to Mysore Warriors: 167/8 in 18.5 overs (LR Chethan 37, Ritesh Bhatkal 66; Shreyas Gopal 4-37, Nischith Pai 2-18) by 2 wkts.

IN BRIEF

Ekka to lead Indian colts

▸ Defender Anmol Ekka will lead a 22-member Indian Junior (U-21) men's hockey team at the upcoming exposure tour of Belgium, scheduled from July 5 to 18, reports PTI from New Delhi.

Indian junior men's squad: Goalkeepers: Vivek Lakra, Kunal Tewatia. **Defenders:** Anmol Ekka, Rohit Kullu, Chirag, Ravinder, Prasant Barla, Sanjit Tirkey, V Manimaran. **Midfielders:** Adrohit Ekka, Harpal, Jeetpal, Mukesh Toppo, Mannu Malik, Ritik Lakra. **Forwards:** Ajeet Yadav, Prabhdeep Singh, Arjun Hargude, Aryan Xess, Lovenoor Singh, Mohd Konain Dad, Gurusewak Singh.

B'luru's Saha finishes third

▸ Bengaluru's Ankush Saha clinched third place with a level par total in net stroke play at the Czech Disabled Golf Masters at Golf Resort Black Bridge in Prague, reports DHNS.

Saha was placed 10th after round 1 with a 3-over 75 but carded a 3-under in round 2 to finish strong. He secured third place based on a better round 2 score.

Anand elected BGC captain

▸ Anand Srinivasan S was elected unopposed as the captain of the Bangalore Golf Club for the term 2026-27, reports DHNS.

Office bearers: Captain: Anand Srinivasan S; **Secretary:** BK Subbaiah; **Treasurer:** Narasinga Rao MK. **Managing committee members:** BP Mahesh, Arjun P Tallam, Dheemath N Yadurappa, Srivathsa Sathyanarayan, Porithosh Shetty.

George, Varun score hat-tricks

BENGALURU, DHNS: A hat-trick each from Stanley George and Varun Reddy powered Einheit Sports Foundation to a thumping 6-0 win over BPSS FC in the KSFA D Division League Championships at the Bangalore Football Stadium on Tuesday.

LOCAL FOOTBALL

Results: KSFA D Division League: Bangalore Athletic FA: 1 (Minlen 37th) bt Pass FC: 0; Einheit Sports Foundation: 6 (Stanley George 8th, 16th, 27th, Varun Reddy 30th, 35th, 39th) bt BPSS FC: 1 (Rishab Stephen 41st); Shooterz FC: 4 (Savio Pradeep 10th, Gouthama N 20th, Mohan Prabhu K 27th, Bharath Kumar HR 28th) bt Blues FA: 0; Elite Soccer FC: 4 (Anappa YR 2nd, 14th, Mahesh Bahudur Bhandari 5th, 10th) bt All Star FC: 2 (Sanjai 9th, ILungbambe Nriane 20th); Mazaz FC: 3 (Faique 7th, Shaun Olog 23rd, Ajay 34th) bt Kraken FC: 0; Mercurial FC: 7 (Angomjambam Santosh Singh 10th, Mithil Janardhan J 14th, Kshiraj Nair 26th, Vishnu Varhun Singh 28th, Ram Pathak 35th, Mohan Bahadur B 47th, Ashish N 50th) bt VPS FC: 0; Zenit Intl FA: 3 (Chunggoulen Khawbung 6th, Jangmin Thang Haokip 7th, Kamgoulen Khongsai 13th) bt Power Play: 0.

Efficacy for Stewards Trophy

MYSURU SELECTIONS

SS Attaollahi-trained Efficacy, to be ridden by Shreyas Singh, is fancied to win Stewards Trophy, the feature event of the races on Wednesday. The first race starts at 2 pm.

1. The Republican Plate (Div II) - 1200M: Trump Baby 1, Just Blues 1, Peter's Choice 3.
2. The Kodlipet Plate - 1400M: Walter 1, Iron King 2, D Roman Reigns 3.
3. The Republican Plate (Div I) - 1200M: I Like Too Hoo Haa 1, Lords Grace 2, Anushtubha 3.
4. The Renowned Plate (Div II) - 1200M: Phenomenon 1, Ladylion 2, Falcon Fury 3.
5. The Stewards Trophy - 1400M: Efficacy 1, Still I Rise 2, Rise Again 3.
6. The Hiriyur Plate - 1600M: Star Of Light 1, Sada 2, Alpha Domino 3.
7. The Renowned Plate (Div I) - 1200M: Silver Quest 1, Sherpa 2, Asio 3.

Day's Best: Silver Quest. **Jackpot:** 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. **Mini Jackpot:** 4, 5, 6, 7. **I treble:** 2, 3, 4. **II treble:** 5, 6, 7.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

1st T20I: England vs India (**10 pm**). **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

Maharaja T20 Trophy: Kalyani Bengaluru Blasters vs Hubli Tigers (**7 pm**). **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

TENNIS

Wimbledon: Round 2 (**3:30 pm**). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

CRICKET 1ST T20I

Indians look to start afresh

Sooryavanshi's debut the hot topic as embattled Men In Blue take on England

CHESTER-LE-STREET, PTI

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's eagerly-awaited debut and the thoroughly exposed batting frailties on challenging wickets dominate the discourse on India as they take on England in a five-match T20 International series starting here on Wednesday.

India's assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate has said that Sooryavanshi will have to "go through the process and bide his time" like any other cricketer to get a place in the eleven. At the same time, he had no hesitation in declaring that the 15-year-old swashbuckler seems ready for the grind.

But it remains to be seen whether the management will hold firm on its resolve that Sooryavanshi must follow the process amid the growing clamour to blood the explosive hitter.

Ten Doeschate was candid enough to admit that there is disbelief in the camp after being whitewashed 0-2 by Ireland last week and it could well become the trigger for drastic action.

The twin failure of Sanju Samson against Ireland offers them a perfect excuse to bench the opener and pair Sooryavanshi with Abhishek Sharma, who could be saved by that 20-ball 49 in the first T20I at Belfast.

It could end up being the move that gives the visitors a strong start against England in the five-match series.

Ishan Kishan also did not cover himself in glory during the two-match series against Ireland and was dismissed for 1, 12. So, the management can bench any of those two to accommodate Sooryavanshi but they will ponder the possible effect such a move can have on the morale of the omitted batter.

If one takes the case of Samson, he had a wonderful run in the back-end of the T20 World Cup earlier this year and also scored two centuries for Chennai Super Kings in the IPL.

However, the think tank led by chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar and head coach Gautam Gambhir is not averse to taking some harsh calls, and those in doubt can re-read the Suryakumar Yadav story.

They also handed debuts to Suryansh Shedge and Prince Yadav against Ireland, leaving Sooryavanshi waiting for his national cap.

But then the inclusion of Sooryavanshi alone should not be viewed as a quick fix to India's batting travails, which have many contours.

None of the Indian batters looked comfortable in conditions at Belfast that offered considerable assistance to pacers.

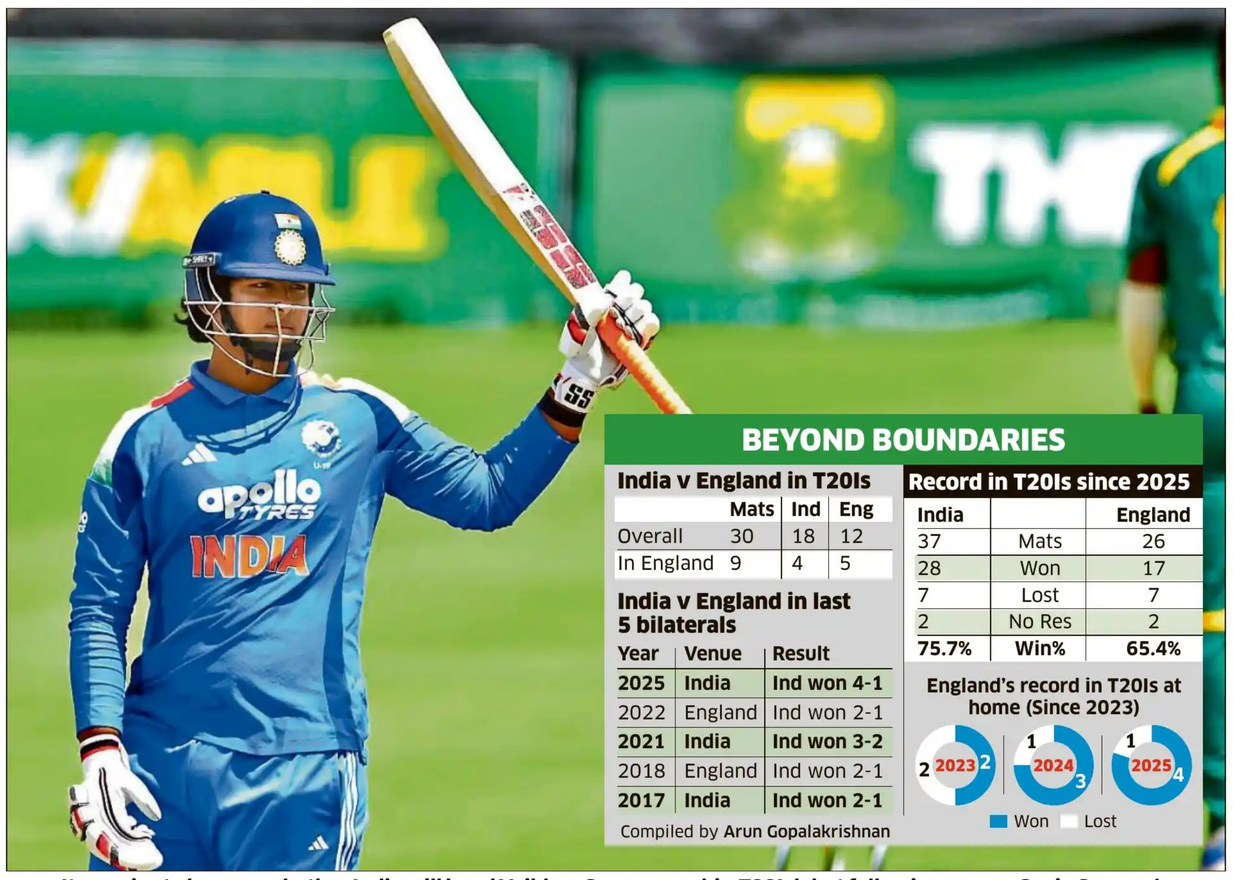
They looked like fishes out of the pond once routes to aggressive batting were blocked by conditions and spot-on Irish bowlers.

In the second T20I, Tilak Varma appeared to have aced the situation with a measured fifty but his patience too ran out after playing the hanging-in-there kind of cricket for 46 balls. That impatience was the facemark of several other Indian batters too while chasing perfectly achievable targets like 183 and 155.

It required a slightly different mindset than batting on the flatbeds of IPL, but it was not coming through. The Indian batters will need to adjust their conceptualisation and execution, as England will offer more or less the same conditions, and a better and more seasoned package of cricketers.

England have extreme pace in Jofra Archer, Josh Tongue, Saqib Mahmood, and Sonny Baker and wiliness in Aadil Rashid and Rehan Ahmed.

That the average T20I score in the Riverside Ground is 138, with a highest of 195, hints at bowlers' dominance across eight previous matches held here. So, if there is a delay from batters in adjusting to the rival attack and pitches here, then England can run away with the five-match series in the blink of an eye.



BEYOND BOUNDARIES

India v England in T20Is

	Mats	Ind	Eng
Overall	30	18	12
In England	9	4	5

India v England in last 5 bilaterals

Year	Venue	Result
2025	**India**	**Ind won 4-1**
2022	England	Ind won 2-1
2021	**India**	**Ind won 3-2**
2018	England	Ind won 2-1
2017	**India**	**Ind won 2-1**

Compiled by **Arun Gopalakrishnan**

Record in T20Is since 2025

India		England
37	Mats	26
28	Won	17
7	Lost	7
2	No Res	2
75.7%	**Win%**	**65.4%**

England's record in T20Is at home (Since 2023)

It remains to be seen whether India will hand Vaibhav Sooryavanshi a T20I debut following opener Sanju Samson's twin failures against Ireland. PTI FILE PHOTO

LIVE 10 PM SONY SPORTS

Hardik shifts to Bengaluru

All-rounder makes CoE permanent training base

NEW DELHI, PTI

Star all-rounder Hardik Pandya has shifted base to Bengaluru with the aim of making the BCCI's Centre of Excellence (CoE) his permanent training base for the remainder of his career, becoming the first prominent current India cricketer to do so.

The move is unique as India's centrally-contracted players normally visit the Centre of Excellence (CoE) only for injury rehabilitation, fitness assessments or national camps.

Though Pandya is originally from Baroda in Gujarat, he has spent most of the last decade living in Mumbai and training primarily at his IPL franchise Mumbai Indians' facility in Ghansoli.

The 32-year-old, who is currently recovering from a quadriceps injury and was ruled out of the ongoing white-ball tour of UK, has spent considerable time at the CoE over the last six months.

Hardik Pandya

"Hardik has already permanently shifted to Bengaluru. He has rented a property on the outskirts of the city, close to the CoE. He will be the first Indian cricketer to make the CoE his permanent training base for the remainder of his career," a BCCI source said on conditions of anonymity.

"Hardik wanted to move out of Mumbai as commuting every day from his Lower Parel residence for training had become a problem. As a centrally-contracted cricketer, he has access to every facility at the CoE, from injury management to skills training.

"Hence, he took the decision to make the CoE his permanent base whenever he is not on IPL, state or national duty," the source said.

Shashank denies assault allegation

BHOPAL, PTI: Police have registered an FIR against Shashank Singh, who plays for Punjab Kings in the Indian Premier League (IPL), and his retired IPS officer father in Bhopal after a cook hired by them accused them of holding him hostage and assaulting him, an official said.

The cricketer, however, denied the allegations, stating that the complainant, Vipendra Singh Tomar, was playing the "victim card" as he was asked to leave after three days of service as he could not cook and was not trustworthy.

Based on the complaint lodged by Tomar, the case was registered at the Ratibad police station in the city against the father-son duo on June 29, the official said, adding that investigation into the case was underway.

Gukesh, Praggu in fray

ZAGREB, PTI

World champion D Gukesh might have taken a sabbatical from classical chess but his commitment to major events remains intact and he will be up against some of the world's best players in the Zagreb Rapid and Blitz Tournament beginning here on Wednesday.

The event is part of the Grand Chess Tour or GCT, which is the biggest platform to bring together top players. This will be the third event under the GCT brand this year with three more to come.

This event will also feature Indian star R Praggnanandhaa, who is fresh from his victory at the Norway Chess ahead of none other than world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen.

The event will feature nine rounds of rapid and 18 rounds of blitz chess.

Each rapid victory will be worth two points and a draw will fetch one point while in blitz, one point will be awarded for a win and a half for a draw.

Gukesh had surprisingly walked out of the GCT citing his recent performances.

The reigning world champion has to defend his title against Javokhir Sindarov later this year and opinions are split as to who would come out on top.

Despite saying no to main events, Gukesh has committed to playing the rapid and blitz sections as wild card.

For Praggnanandhaa what remains to be seen is his proficiency in the faster version as he won the Norway chess with sheer will and perfectly executed plans.

D Gukesh will hope to top a strong field when the Zagreb Rapid & Blitz event begins on Wednesday. PTI FILE PHOTO

Harmanpreet to lead India at Asian Games

NEW DELHI, PTI: Harmanpreet Kaur was on Tuesday retained as India captain for this year's Asian Games in Japan despite the team's earlier than expected exit from the ICC Women's T20 World Cup in England.

The Women's Selection Committee named a 15-member squad for the Asian Games, scheduled to be held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan from September 19 to October 4. The team's World Cup campaign ended on Sunday after a group stage loss to Australia.

The Indian women's team will enter the Asian Games as defending champs, having won gold in Hangzhou, China in 2023.

India squad: Harmanpreet Kaur (captain), Smriti Mandhana (vice-captain), Shafali Verma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Deepti Sharma, Richa Ghosh (WK), G Kamalini (WK), Bharti Fulmali, Sree Charani, Renuka Thakur, Kranti Gaud, Arundhati Reddy, Shreyanka Patil, Radha Yadav, Nandni Sharma.

Gardner, Mooney star as Aussies storm into final

LONDON, REUTERS: Australia moved a step closer to a record-extending seventh Women's T20 World Cup title after beating West Indies by eight wickets in the first semifinal at The Oval on Tuesday.

Chasing 126 for victory, Australia made a flying start as Beth Mooney and Georgia Voll put on 29 runs from just 18 balls before Voll fell in the second over. Phoebe Litchfield departed soon after, leaving Australia briefly under pressure at 43-2.

However, Mooney anchored the chase with an unbeaten 61, combining with Ashleigh Gardner **(in pic)** in an unbroken partnership, taking them over the line with ease.

Gardner contributed an unbeaten 35 after also claiming two wickets with the ball and was named player of the match.

"I feel like I haven't really had an impact with the ball throughout the tournament. So I guess to save my best till now is always pleasing," Gardner said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

"I felt like I've just probably been pretty inconsistent, where today I was kind of working, just making sure that I was hitting the stumps as often as possible."

Earlier, West Indies made a solid start after being sent in to bat, with captain Hayley Matthews scoring 30 from 28 balls and sharing a 47-run opening stand with Qiana Joseph.

Brief scores: West Indies: 125/7 in 20 overs (Hayley Matthews 30, Deandra Dottin 26 n.o.; Sophie Molineux 2-30, Ashleigh Gardner 2-13, Georgia Wareham 2-17) lt to Australia: 127/2 in 13 overs (Beth Mooney 61 n.o., Ashleigh Gardner 35 n.o.) by 8 wkts. **PoM:** Ashleigh Gardner

BWF 2027-28 calendar out

NEW DELHI, PTI: The India Open Super 750 will be held in February next year and at the end of January in 2028, according to the World Tour Calendar for the next two years announced by the Badminton World Federation (BWF) on Tuesday.

The 2026 edition of the country's flagship event was held from Jan 13 to 18 in Delhi.

There will be 35-tournament global circuit for 2027 and 2028.

SCHEDULE

- India Open 2027: Feb 2 - Feb 7
- India Open 2028: Jan 25 to Jan 30
- Syed Modi India International 2027: Jul 27 - Aug 1
- Syed Modi India In'tional 2028: Jul 25 - Jul 30

KGA'S NEW COMMITTEE

SITTING (from left): Devaiah Somaiah Thennira (Treasurer), Adith Kumar Bhandari (immediate past President), Col C P Nanjappa retd (President), Roopa Pratap (Captain), Hari R Achanta (Secretary). STANDING Committee members: Prasanth C, Girish C Panth, Gp. Capt A S Kumaran, Sqn Ldr Ashok Gowda, J M Swamy.

India crush Lanka in 1st U-19 ODI

PUDUCHERRY, PTI: India produced a clinical all-round performance to outclass Sri Lanka by 120 runs in the opening unofficial Under-19 women's ODI here on Tuesday.

Opting to bat, hosts India posted a 279 for eight before dismissing Sri Lanka for 159.

Brief scores: India U19: 279/8 in 50 overs (Ira Jadhav 83, Nidhi Mahto 54; Chamodhi Herath 3-51) bt Sri Lanka U19: 159 all out in 48.5 overs (Manudi Nanayakkara 47; Janhavi Virkar 2-40, Mahak Narwase 2-12) by 120 runs.

Rybakina, Swiatek made to sweat

LONDON, REUTERS

Wimbledon second seed and 2022 champion Elena Rybakina survived a first-round scare against French debutant Lois Boisson to grind out an unconvincing 6-4, 1-6, 6-3 win on Tuesday.

Boisson, who enjoyed a fairytale run to the French Open semi-finals last year but was knocked out in the first round this year, was helped by an error-strewn performance by the Russian-born Kazakh ranked 152 places above her.

The 27-year-old had looked headed for a comfortable win after the first set but Boisson, who has yet to win a match on grass, turned everything on its head in the second to leave the outcome in the balance.

Boisson took a medical timeout at 4-1 in the second set when she had treatment to her left calf and she was grimacing again after a tumble in the third when she faced three break points at 3-4 down.

The Frenchwoman saved two before Rybakina made the break and then served out for the match at 40-15.

Defending champion Iga Swiatek overcame a serious second-set wobble to reach the second round, beating powerful American Taylor Townsend 6-1, 2-6, 6-3.

Swiatek, 25, a former world No. 1 with six Grand Slam titles under her belt, looked to be cruising when she broke nervy 30-year-old Townsend's serve twice in the first set and took it with a stylish forehand winner.

But it was the third seed's turn to suffer nerves in the second set. She sprayed groundstrokes long and wide as her forehand consistency deserted her and the 79th-ranked Townsend capitalised, breaking serve twice and capturing the set with an exquisite backhand drop volley and an ace.

Concern showed on the faces of Swiatek's father and sister watching from the royal box. The talented Pole has struggled with consistency since her 2025 triumph over Amanda Anisimova in the Wimbledon final, going out in the quarterfinals of the US and Australian Opens and the fourth round at Roland Garros - a tournament she has won four times.

Things did not look good for her in the first game of the third set where she lost serving rhythm, producing three double faults in a marathon game that lasted 21 minutes and included 10 deuces. But she stuck it out and won in gritty fashion.

Australia's Alex de Minaur was born in New South Wales and spent much of his childhood in Spain but on Tuesday he became an honorary British player for fans on Wimbledon's Court Three.

Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina celebrates after defeating France's Lois Boisson in the first round on Tuesday. AFP

Key first round results (prefix denotes seeding): Men's singles: 28-Brandon Nakashima (US) bt Jack Pinnington Jones (Gbr) 6-3, 7-6 (7/5), 7-5; 5-Alex De Minaur (Aus) bt Roman Burruchaga (Arg) 7-6 (7/5), 6-1, 6-0; Kamil Majchrzak (Pol) bt 30-Alejandro Tabilo (Chi) 6-3, 7-5, 7-5; 6-Taylor Fritz (US) bt Dusan Lajovic (Srb) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3.
Women's singles: 13-Jasmine Paolini (Ita) bt Robin Montgomery (USA) 0-6, 6-4, 7-5; Maria Sakkari (Gre) bt 24-Clara Tauson (Den) 6-3, 6-3; 6-Amanda Anisimova (US) bt Lina Gjorcheska (Mkd) 6-3, 6-2; 26-Madison Keys (US) bt Kayla Day (US) 6-7 (5/7), 6-4, 6-3; 21-Marie Bouzkova (Cze) bt Talia Gibson (AUS) 6-1, 3-6, 6-2.

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